



Nyasaland

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NYASALAND
PROTECTORATE

Report for the year
1956

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1957

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Annual Report of Nyasaland Protectorate, 1956

C O R R I G E N D A

Page 101. 7th line, 1956 column. *For " 896 " read " 64 ".*
8th line, 1956 column. *For " 4008 " read " 4840 ".*

Pages 101, 103, 105, page heading. *For " Social Services " read
" Justice and Police ".*

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PART I

Review of 1956

SIR ROBERT ARMITAGE, K.C.M.G., M.B.E., became Governor of the Protectorate in April, 1956, succeeding Sir Geoffrey Colby, K.C.M.G., who left the territory in March after a term of office lasting eight years.

The first general election under the amended Constitution for Nyasaland announced in June, 1955, by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, was held in March, 1956. The newly-constituted Council met first in May and again in July. Membership of the Council now comprises the Governor as President, four *ex-officio* Members, seven Official Members, six non-African Elected Members and five African Elected Members.

Despite adverse weather conditions, which affected the quality of the tobacco grown as well as the production of rice and cotton, food supplies were more than adequate to meet all needs and record crops of tea and wheat were marketed.

The year's most important development concerning the marketing of crops grown on African trust land was the amalgamation of the Cotton, Tobacco and Produce Marketing Boards into a single organization, the Agricultural Production and Marketing Board. This Board is responsible for the marketing of maize, cotton, groundnuts and tobacco and, before each planting season, it announces guaranteed minimum prices for all crops except tobacco. During 1956 the Board paid growers a sum of just under £1,570,000 for 56,800 tons of produce, in comparison with £1,423,000 paid out in 1955 for some 68,000 tons of produce. Between 1948 and 1955 the original boards, whose functions have now been taken over by the new board, paid out over £9,000,000 to African farmers and contributed £1,400,000 to the Native Development and Welfare Fund. In addition, they built up substantial reserve funds for the purpose of helping to stabilize future marketing.

Maize production policy during the year continued to aim at meeting internal needs; producing a safe strategic reserve to be held until the following crop is assured; encouraging surplus production only in those areas considered suitable for maize; restricting production, by withholding marketing facilities, in those areas where maize cultivation is most harmful; increasing yields per acre in all areas by the introduction of improved techniques; and freeing land at present under maize for the production of more valuable crops, in order to achieve a sounder, more balanced agricultural economy.

During 1956 the Agricultural Production and Marketing Board purchased, at the guaranteed price of 1d per lb., stocks of maize sufficient to meet the Protectorate's internal requirements and to carry forward a reserve in excess of 25,000 tons.

Nineteen hundred and fifty-six was a disastrous year for cotton. The planting rains were exceptionally unfavourable and, in addition, prolonged wet weather, continuing into May, favoured the build-up of pests and diseases. The overall acreage under cotton dropped from 39,124 acres in 1955 to 26,422 acres in 1956. Production from African trust land showed a fall from 8,589 short tons of seed cotton in 1955 to only 3,233 short tons in 1956. Estate production showed a similar decline from 990 to 202 short tons. The overall production of lint fell from 15,407 bales to 5,150 bales.

A major aim of the Protectorate's agricultural policy is to increase groundnut production since, not only does this crop provide a much-needed supplement to a diet dominated by maize, but it also exerts a beneficial effect on other crops following it in rotation. It is, moreover, a valuable export crop.

During the year 9,772 short tons of groundnuts were purchased. This represented a slight shortfall on the previous year's figure of 10,321 short tons, due in main to the unsatisfactory rains. The export value of the crop remained high during 1956 and it proved possible to pay growers a $\frac{1}{2}$ d per lb. more than the guaranteed minimum price of $3\frac{1}{2}$ d per lb.

In the South early rains, followed later in the season by severe flooding, reduced rice yields. In the North some areas also experienced heavy flooding and yields were correspondingly disappointing. The marketing of this crop is now handled by the Kota Kota Produce and Trading Society and by Co-operatives, except for rice grown in the Mlanje District. The Federation's 1956 requirements for Grade I rice were met; the lower grades of rice found a good market in South Africa. The total amount of rice purchased in 1956 was 4,173 tons. Because of the general uncertainty prevailing on the world rice market, it was decided during the year to terminate the investigations into the growing of rice under controlled irrigation which have been in progress during the past two years on the flooded plain South of Lake Chilwa. Much useful data has been collected during the course of these trials, but only a firm rise in world prices would render it economic to increase rice production to any great extent in Nyasaland.

Climatically, 1956 was unfavourable for the production of quality tobacco. The actual output was, however, satisfactory at 34,503,257 lb. for all types of tobacco, an increase of 45 per cent. over the small crop produced in 1955. Prices on the auction floors maintained a fair level, and the following were the average prices for the year:—

Fire-cured	..	..	..	..	16.83d
Air-cured	..	..	..	..	19.36d
Flue-cured	..	..	..	..	22.88d
Burley ..	..	..	..	..	22.82d.

In the Northern Division the number of African growers of fire-cured tobacco increased by 12 per cent., the overall acreage by 18 per cent. and production by 84 per cent. compared with the previous

season. The average yield was 241 lb. per acre, the highest on record. In the Southern Division the number of African growers increased by 40 per cent., acreage by 31 per cent. and production by 170 per cent. The average yield per acre was 226 lb., a considerable increase on the previous year. In the Central Division the number of African growers of air-cured tobacco showed a slight increase, the overall acreage was slightly less than in 1955, but production increased by 22 per cent.

Estate production of fire-cured, air-cured and Burley tobacco increased by 39 per cent., 11 per cent. and 13 per cent. respectively, compared with 1955. The Burley crop was the biggest yet produced in Nyasaland. Estate production of flue-cured tobacco showed an increase of 11 per cent.

Experiments in the growing of the Samsoun variety of Turkish tobacco in the Mzimba District continued in 1956. The results obtained were satisfactory and it is almost certain that good-quality leaf can be grown in this area. The total acreage planted experimentally was 22 acres, and over 6,000 lb. of leaf were sold during the year at an average price of 20.4d per lb.

The 1955/1956 season was a good one climatically for tea production and the exported crop was a record. Exports for the calendar year 1956 reached 20,654,537 lb., exceeding the 1955 figure by over 3,000,000 lb. During the year the London Auction Floor prices for Nyasaland teas dropped from an average of approximately 40d per lb. at the beginning of the year to just over 30d in August and September. Towards the end of the year, however, prices showed a steep rise to between 60d and 72d per lb. The acreage under tea in 1956 showed a slight increase over that of 1955, standing at 26,186 acres, of which 23,737 acres were in bearing. Progress was maintained in the replacing of the poorer types of tea with higher-yielding jats. The good rainfall, better agricultural practices, improved fertilization application and the increased acreages that came into bearing from new and replanted gardens all contributed to the high yields obtained.

The continuing uncertainty of the future demand for tung oil at prices attractive to producers has resulted in many of the smaller producers losing interest in this crop. During the year the acreage under crop showed a slight reduction to 18,966 acres. 867 long tons of oil were produced and the average price received was slightly over £160 per long ton for most of the year. At the end of the year there was a sharp rise in prices as a result of the Middle East crisis. As the tung plantations mature and as improved management practices are adopted, the existing acreage should have a potential of some 2,000 long tons of oil per year.

The extension services of the Department of Agriculture made steady progress during 1956. Work continued on implementing the policy of protecting natural resources by such physical means as the construction of contoured and graded bunds and of planting ridges.

6,735 miles of bund were constructed during the year, giving protection to 68,950 acres. The total area of African trust land and public land which has been protected in this manner over the past eight years now exceeds 750,000 acres. In addition, every effort was made during the year to ensure the observance by African growers of such essential practices as early planting and weeding, crop spacing, and seed selection. Growers were also instructed in the correct cultural practices specific to individual crops as well as the elements of crop and grazing rotation.

The Master Farmer Scheme, which aims at the evolution of the individual yeoman farmer, continued to make favourable progress. During the year 10 First Class and 170 Second Class Master Farmers qualified for bonuses amounting to a total of £3,200.

The Land and Agricultural Loans Board set up in 1955 by Government to encourage agricultural development has terms of reference similar to those of the land banks in neighbouring territories. During 1956 it granted 13 loans totalling £16,950. Other current assistance schemes, aimed at promoting better farming methods, included the sale of farm carts, fertilizers and pise moulds at subsidized prices, and the provision of direct subsidies for dams, weirs and fencing.

Village Land Improvement Schemes, which have as their aim the reorganization of village lands, the allocation of suitable lands to timber and grazing, and the arrangement and conservation of gardens on a permanent conservation pattern, continued to make steady progress. There were 18 such schemes in operation in the Central and Southern Provinces during the year.

The opening of the Colby School of Agriculture and Veterinary Science in February, 1956, marked the beginning of a new era of agricultural education in Nyasaland. Courses held at the school include those for African field staff of the Agricultural and Veterinary Departments, advanced courses for Agricultural Instructors, courses for student teachers as well as short courses for Chiefs, villagers and Master Farmers. Other centres providing courses are the Farm Institutes; there is one at Tuchila in the Southern Province, another attached to the Colby School in the Central Province and yet another at Mbawa in the Northern Province. These institutes hold short instructional and visual courses for Chiefs, villagers and Master Farmers as well as refresher courses for Agricultural Instructors and school teachers. During 1956 the Tuchila Institute catered for 972 Chiefs, villagers and farmers and held refresher courses for 60 teachers and 56 Agricultural Instructors. The Mbawa Institute and that attached to the Colby School were not ready to give instruction until late in the season and they were only able to hold a limited number of courses for 119 and 10 persons, respectively.

Agricultural research continued unabated during the year at the research centres. The nature of the work carried out is described in other chapters of this Report.

The year favoured livestock as the grazing flourished under the prolonged rains. However, these same climatic conditions also encouraged ticks and there was an increase in the prevalence of tick-borne diseases. The annual livestock census showed a steady increase in the numbers of cattle, despite the formidable drain imposed by the meat requirements of the South. The export of hides and skins decreased slightly from 46,825 units in 1955 to 44,352 units in 1956.

Diagnosis, disease investigation and the production of vaccine continued at the Veterinary Laboratory at Blantyre. Rabies in dogs again caused alarm, but the regulation whereby dogs in townships must be vaccinated before being licensed was generally effective in protecting township animals.

The cattle *khola* improvement scheme continued during 1956. In the areas where it has been implemented there has been a marked drop in calf mortality. The aim is to provide weather-proof *kholas* with impervious floors where stock can lie at night under warm and dry conditions. In all, 5 brick, 263 wooden and 170 wire *kholas* were built during the year. In some areas of the Central Province cattle-owners hedge their stock paddocks; during 1956 they laid out 952 *mlungudzi* thorn- and sisal-demarcated paddocks.

The Forest Estate already comprises 3,114 square miles out of an estimated total area of forest and woodland of some 7,000 square miles. During the year proposals were put forward for the constitution of a Secondary Forest Estate, comprising Local Government Forests, to supplement the State Forests and to form sources for the supply of forest products required by the local population. One new Forest Reserve was gazetted during the year, namely, Kalwe in the Northern Province.

The Department completed a further 35 miles of forest access roads during the year, as well as constructing another 29 permanent buildings. Twenty-seven outbreaks of forest fires were reported in 1956, but as a result of the efficiency of the fire-control system, damage was negligible. A total of 2,302 acres was planted by the Department in 1956, of which 2,190 acres represent afforestation of new areas and 112 acres represent planting of experimental plots. The total acreage of Government plantations at the end of the year was 15,834 acres.

Game, fish and tsetse control are organized by a single Department. During the year the tendency for the Game Control staff to concentrate more on the game conservation side of their work than on game control increased. Some effort was devoted to the control of dangerous game, but vermin control was left almost entirely in the hands of the cultivators themselves, while the Game Control Officers spent most of the dry season attending to the Reserves. The Vwaza Marsh was declared a controlled shooting area during the year. A start was made in opening the Game Reserves to the general public; to this end a small rest camp was fitted up in the Kasungu Reserve where visitors may hope to see elephant, several species of antelope and a large variety of birds.

Commercial fishing activities by African and non-African concerns continued to expand during the year. A new European firm was licensed to operate over the whole of Lake Nyasa. A Commission of Enquiry into the Fishing Industry was appointed during the year. It was concerned with assessing the adequacy of supplies of fish for local consumption and with a detailed study of such problems as distribution and price control. Its Report will be published in 1957. Nine fish-farms were started by Africans during the year with the assistance of the Department; four were completed by the end of the year.

During the year the Report of the Tsetse Survey of Nyasaland was published. It emphasises the need for the integration of tsetse control with a considered land usage policy—a need which Government is already taking steps to meet. Tsetse observations continued in the Chikwawa District during the year, and intensive investigations were undertaken in the Fort Johnston District with a view to freeing the Toleza Government Farm and the surrounding areas from the danger of trypanosomiasis. The clearing of the tsetse-infected areas of the Karonga District continued vigorously and by the end of the year fly catches were down to an average of less than one per patrol in a sector where previously averages of nearly 15 had been common.

By the end of 1956 there were 81 Registered Co-operative Societies in Nyasaland. During the year six dairy produce and two consumer societies were registered, while the registrations of one dairy produce and two consumer societies were cancelled. Co-operative societies purchased over 3,500 tons of rice during the year. The new rice-mill of the Shire River Rice-Growers Co-operative Union came into operation in April and produced a high-quality rice which found a ready market in the Rhodesias. Ghee production was maintained at a high level during the year and for the first time ghee-canning machinery was utilised. External competition, however, renders uncertain the future growth of this industry on any scale in Nyasaland. The coffee co-operative societies had a good year and expanded their activities. The transport section of the Northern Co-operative Union continued to provide a transport system covering the whole of the Northern Province; this system is used extensively, not only by member societies, but also by Government, commercial concerns and individuals.

No new electrical plant was brought into operation during the year by the Department of Electrical Services, but output from the existing stations increased considerably and met all demands. In Blantyre another 2,500 Kw. generating set, which will increase the capacity of the station to 7,000 Kw., was completed; it will be in operation early in 1957. An 11,000 V. line to Blantyre Airport and another 11,000 V. line to serve the tea estates in the Cholo area were installed during the year. While the Federal Government was financially responsible for electricity services, the Nyasaland Government continued to administer the utility on its behalf during 1956. A shadow electricity supply commission was set up by the Federal Minister of Power during the year charged with

the task of making arrangements for the establishment of a statutory commission under the aegis of the Federal Government. The Nyasaland Government during the year decided to subsidize electricity for a period of four years at a cost not exceeding £20,000 per annum. The result in 1956 was a reduction in electricity charges amounting to 10 per cent. on each consumer account.

During the financial year 1955/1956 £63,345 were spent by the Nyasaland Government on the development of reticulated water supplies in the Protectorate. Work commenced on extending the pumping and purification plant which supplies the Blantyre/Limbe area to allow for increased consumption to a level of 1,000,000 gallons per day. A start was also made on doubling the capacity of the service reservoir. Investigations into the future water supply for the Blantyre/Limbe area included that into the possibility of pumping from the Shire River, a distance of 20 miles. Work continued at Lilongwe on the installation of water-pumping plant, as did work on the installation of a new reticulation for Zomba where the mains have been designed for 1,000,000 gallons a day.

The geological mapping of the Southern Province continued during the year, an area of some 1,360 square miles being covered, but no mineral deposits of any economic value were located. A private geologist spent several months investigating the rich apatite deposit at Tundulu Hill located by the Department in 1954. The radio-active sands near Monkey Bay were further prospected during the year. Results so far obtained indicate that these sands might provide a useful source of thorium. Towards the end of the year further extensive areas of monazite-bearing sands were discovered on the Lake-shore between Fort Johnston and Fort Maguire.

During the year 28 Prospecting Rights were issued. At the end of the year 10 Exclusive Prospecting Licences were extant. No mining leases were granted in 1956, but at the end of the year three were still extant. During the year 122 successful boreholes, mainly for village water supply schemes, were completed; the average yield was 670 gallons per hour. One hundred and sixty-two geophysical surveys were also completed, of which 27 were for private individuals and concerns.

The labour legislation enacted in 1955, providing for a new form of Employment Book which can only be issued to persons who possess a recognized trade test certificate, or who have been employed in one type of work for not less than three years and who have been in the employ of one employer for not less than one year immediately preceding the application, was brought into force during the year. Arrangements were put in hand for inaugurating a Protectorate-wide trade-testing scheme to meet the growing need for the classification and identification of skilled African workmen within the Protectorate.

Recruiting permits were issued to the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association and to the Rhodesia Native Labour Supply Commission. It was revealed in a census conducted in May that

162,420 Africans were engaged in paid employment in Nyasaland. The number of African workers absent from the Protectorate in 1956 was estimated to exceed 160,000.

It is estimated that just under £1,500,000 were received during the year in the Protectorate from migrant workers abroad. This figure includes private remittances and the £758,000 which came through the recruiting organizations. The number of endorsements to identity certificates for travel abroad which were granted during the year was 72,304 compared with 66,186 in 1955.

Three new Trade Unions, two of which were Employers' Associations, were registered during the year under the Trade Unions and Trade Disputes Ordinance. This brings the total number of Trade Unions in Nyasaland to ten. African Trade Unions cover railway workers, motor transport workers, non-manual and clerical workers in commercial and professional undertakings and master sawyers. The Standing Labour Advisory Boards, one in each Province, continued to advise Government on such matters as wage rates, conditions of employment and industrial relations. Seven stoppages of work took place in 1956 compared with nine in 1955.

Internal retail trade continued normally during the year. It was only possible to assess the value of those imports into, and those exports from, the Protectorate which were between Nyasaland and places outside the Federal area. For the period 1st January to 30th September, 1956, imports amounted to £6,365,025 and exports (including re-exports) amounted to £6,208,319.

The Public Works Department was again obliged to concentrate a considerable portion of its works capacity on the construction of houses for Government staff. 689 junior staff quarters were constructed departmentally at various stations during the year. 72 senior staff houses and 28 flats were also built in 1956. In the Soche High Density Residential Area situated between Blantyre and Limbe over 450 African houses were completed on contract by the end of 1956. The department carried out a number of important building projects, including a headquarters at Zomba for the Geological Survey Department. The department also continued to act as an agent for the Federal Government in the supervision of road, airfield and building contracts. The department maintained 2,695 miles of the Protectorate's total road mileage of 5,152.

In the sphere of African education further progress was made during 1956 with the 1954/1959 Five-Year Development Plan. The total expenditure by Government on African education in the financial year 1955/1956 was some £505,000. In addition, local authorities provided a total contribution of £7,428 while voluntary organizations spent approximately £219,000. There were 3,146 junior primary schools functioning during 1956. There were also 148 senior primary school streams, 10 junior secondary schools, 3 full secondary schools, and 2 junior trade schools. Of the junior primary schools, 2 were Govern-

ment schools with a total enrolment of 301; 701 were aided school streams with a total enrolment of 98,473; and 2,443 were unaided schools with an approximate enrolment of 145,956. Of the senior primary school streams 1 was a Government stream and 134 were aided and 13 were unaided streams; the total enrolment at the Government school was 102; at the aided schools 13,426; and at the unaided schools 921. Of the junior secondary schools, 8 were aided, with an enrolment of 400, and 2 were unaided with an enrolment of 116. Enrolment at the three full secondary schools (one Government and two aided) was 363. The two junior trade schools (one Government and one aided) had a total enrolment of 106.

Twelve teacher training centres operated during the year; of these, one was a Government centre with four streams; nine were aided centres with 11 streams; and two were unaided single stream centres. The number of teachers who passed out of training centres during the year and entered the teaching profession was 232.

Continued efforts were made to satisfy the educational needs of adults and of children too old for admission to primary schools. Mass literacy drives, literature in the two vernacular languages and in English provided by the Joint Publications Bureau of Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland, as well as the weekly newspaper *Msimbi*, issued by the Government Information Services, all helped to satisfy these needs.

The lack of accurate vital statistics in respect of the African population makes it difficult to determine trends. It is, however, evident that the population is increasing steadily each year; at the end of 1956 it was estimated to be 2,600,000. The European population at the end of the year was estimated at 7,000, and the population of persons other than Africans and Europeans at 10,000.

The Nyasaland Police Force, which is organized in three divisions corresponding to the three Provinces, continued to expand. The establishment was increased in 1956 to 1,453 and the actual strength at the end of the year was 1,444. Of the 244 recruits in training, 123 were posted to stations and only 16 were discharged during training as unsuitable. Five gazetted Officers and six members of the Inspectorate attended courses of instruction in the United Kingdom. These included three African Sub-Inspectors, one of whom qualified as a Bandmaster at the Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall; the other two attended a non-gazetted police officers' course at the Hendon Police College. A total of 26,066 offences were investigated by the police during the year. 6,875 sets of fingerprints were received at the fingerprint bureau during the year, of which 1,677 were identified. There are 53,344 sets of fingerprints filed in this bureau.

The Lands Section of the Secretariat continued to concern itself with mining and town planning in addition to land matters in general. This Section is headed by the Secretary for Lands and Mines. The

responsibility for advising Government through the Secretary for African Affairs on policy in respect of the tenure of both African trust land and other land occupied by Africans lies with the Lands Adviser.

An important development in the sphere of land utilization and tenure was the setting-up during the year of a standing advisory committee, known as the Central Land Use Committee, to co-ordinate the formulation and carrying-out of the policies of departments concerned with land use. Its membership comprises the Secretary for African Affairs as Chairman, the Lands Adviser as Secretary, the Director of Agriculture, the Director of Veterinary Services, the Conservator of Forests, the Director of Game, Fish and Tsetse Control, the Director of Water Development and the Development Secretary. Its terms of reference include advising the Governor on a co-ordinate policy in respect of land use matters with which the departments are concerned, and also advising him on the measures necessary to give effect to, and to co-ordinate the carrying out of, the accepted policy within the spheres of these departments.

The Town Planning Service for Nyasaland is provided by the Chief Town Planning Officer, Southern Rhodesia, and the responsibility for its organization and administration rests with him. He is represented in Blantyre by a resident Town Planning Officer. The Blantyre/Limbe Outline Planning Scheme was advanced during 1956 by the preparation of a number of detailed layouts and the demarcation of sites. There was a marked increase in the amount of detailed layout work required during the year, particularly in the Soche High Density Residential Area where further progress was made with the large Government building programme started in 1955. Applications for private development in the Blantyre/Limbe area showed a marked increase over the previous year, amounting to 556 as against 482 in 1955. Progress was also made during the year with the Outline Planning Schemes for Lilongwe, Zomba and Mzuzu.

The work of the Survey Department in 1956 was largely concentrated on the demarcation of lands acquired by Government for resettlement purposes and on surveys required for town planning purposes. The total acreage of land demarcated for resettlement purposes during the year was 35,761 acres; on the town planning side the Department surveyed 312 plots comprising 603 acres; 58 plots were in the Blantyre/Limbe area, 23 in Zomba, 71 in Lilongwe and the balance at the smaller centres. In addition, the department surveyed 5,981 acres in rural areas to facilitate conveyances of public land.

One departmental surveyor took part in the permanent marking of the Anglo-Portuguese Boundary. Topographical surveys were executed by a Boundary Commission Survey Party and 70 beacons were erected along the line from Dedza to Port Herald. In addition, previous beaconing in the Lilongwe District was checked and verified.

During the year the drawing and reproduction office issued 9,257 copies of maps and plans.

European information, tourism and photography became a Federal Government responsibility on the 1st July, 1954. The remaining functions of the former Department of Public Relations (including African information, publications, relations with the Press and film exhibiting) were assumed by the Nyasaland Information Services. The benefits deriving from this division of responsibility were again evident during the year. At the end of the year the circulation of the vernacular newspaper *Msimbi* attained a figure of just under 9,000. The weekly news Bulletin also improved its circulation which, by the end of the year, had reached a figure of 10,000 per week. The change made during the year in the format of the Bulletin was one of the main reasons for its increased popularity. It is now a six-page issue with a monthly feature supplement. Nyasaland has no immediate access to the air and broadcasting material for transmission to the African community is telegraphed or airmailed on tape to Lusaka. With the introduction of the two-channel broadcasting system at Lusaka earlier in the year the time allocated to Nyasaland each week was extended to seven hours. Permanent staff were posted to Zomba to ensure a regular flow of sufficient broadcasting material from Nyasaland to cover the increased time. The recording studio is fully equipped with tape-recording facilities and the live material prepared includes talks, feature broadcasts and plays. It is estimated that approximately 15,000 Africans in Nyasaland own radio sets.

The distribution of films for Africans is also undertaken by the Information Services which showed films to 143,763 persons during the year. Mobile cinema units operated by a variety of agents showed films to an estimated further 150,000 people during the year.

The Government Press increased its overall production by 20.2 per cent. in 1956. It produced 12,797,207 forms and 588,012 pads and books for Government Departments during the year. In addition to printing a number of productions requiring specialist techniques, the Press was responsible for the printing of the Annual Protectorate Report, the Departmental Annual Reports, the daily *Hansard*, the twelve-page weekly vernacular newspaper *Msimbi* with its monthly pictorial supplement, and the Information Services' weekly news Bulletin with its monthly two-page supplement. The maintenance section of the Government Press overhauled 605 typewriters and 119 miscellaneous office machines for Government Departments during the year. The training of African apprentices by the Department continued throughout 1956; three successfully finished their seven years' apprenticeship during the year.

African Provincial Councils met regularly during 1956. District Councils have been established under the Local Government (District Councils) Ordinance of 1953 in 11 of the 18 Districts of the Protectorate. These Councils are constituted by Warrant and are multi-racial in composition. In those districts where statutory District Councils have not yet been established, non-statutory District Councils continued to

function in an advisory capacity. These Councils will change their form as and when development is sufficiently advanced and the necessary staff and potential members are available for the running of a statutory Council.

Co-operation during the year between Government and the Protectorate's 132 Native Authorities remained good. The Native Administrations have a wide field of activities and, in most cases, perform their duties satisfactorily. The degree of efficiency of a Native Authority is inevitably influenced by the character, ability and popularity of its Chief. The success of those Councils that do not have a Chief has, however, shown that a good Council can, in certain circumstances, be equally efficacious. It must, however, be borne in mind that in most areas the loyalty of the people is still to the Chief in person, rather than to any Council. Successful Local Government in Nyasaland still largely depends on the quality of the relationship existing between the people, their Chiefs and District Commissioners.

A District Commissioner has been described as "everything from a magistrate to a midwife". In many districts his duties, apart from purely administrative ones, include work connected with police, land leases, accounts, judicial functions, labour, education, agriculture, game control, marketing of native produce and public works. In addition, much of each month is spent by the District Commissioner and his Assistants in travelling through their district by car, bicycle or foot, liaising with the Chiefs, keeping in contact with the people, interpreting Government policy and supervising the work of the Native Treasuries and Native Courts.

The jurisdiction of the Native Courts covers the whole country. The practice and procedure of the Courts are regulated in accordance with native law and custom, subject to any rules which may be made by the Governor. These Courts continued to operate efficiently during the year and the very small proportion of appeals from their decisions indicates that they undoubtedly provide justice of the sort understood and appreciated by Africans.

The rate of Native Tax during 1956 remained at 17s-6d throughout the Protectorate, except for two small islands in Lake Nyasa where the rate was 10s. The estimated yield for the financial year 1956/57 is £590,709, compared with the actual collection of £616,935 for 1955/56. Nine shillings of each 17s-6d tax were credited to Native Treasuries.

The Native Development and Welfare Fund, financed mainly out of surpluses of the Agricultural Production and Marketing Board, continued to provide funds for local schemes which were beyond the resources of the Native Treasuries. Grants were again made, mostly on the advice of Provincial and District Development Committees, for the provision of such amenities as books for libraries, community welfare halls and improvements to communications as well as for soil and water conservation and agricultural schemes.

During 1956, £82,125 was provided by the Fund for the development of the Soche High Density Residential Area and £40,000 for Land Resettlement Schemes. Grants from the Fund for schemes of local benefit to the African population were estimated at £33,857 for the Northern Province, £13,508 for the Central Province and £24,204 for the Southern Province. In addition, grants made for schemes for the general benefit of Africans in the Protectorate were estimated at £181,799. Loans from the Fund were estimated at £41,050.

Continued progress was made during 1956 with the resettlement of Africans on estate land acquired by Government. Some 300,000 acres of land were acquired by Government for this purpose between 1948 and 1954 from estate-owners in the Southern Province. Since then Government has agreed to acquire a further 116,000 acres and to negotiate for a further 52,000 acres. Resettlement of families proceeded smoothly during the year and it is estimated that by the end of the year only 24,000 families remained on private land in the Southern Province; it is anticipated that 17,000 of these will be resettled in 1957.

A list of current development schemes financed by grants from Colonial Development and Welfare funds is attached as an Appendix to this Part of the Report, together with a statement showing the revenue accruing from the Fund in 1955/1956 and the estimated revenue in 1956/1957. The progress made during the year, both on the various departmental schemes and on the individual schemes, is described in the relevant sections of this Report.

GRANTS UNDER THE COLONIAL DEVELOPMENT AND WELFARE ACTS

				<i>Actual Revenue 1955/56 £</i>	<i>Estimated Revenue 1956/57 £</i>
<i>(a) Departmental Schemes</i>					
Agriculture D.1550	..	..	..	18,146	.. —
Education D.1551	..	..	..	60,535	.. —
Water Supplies D.1625	..	..	..	11,371	.. —
Veterinary D.1554	..	..	..	737	.. —
<i>(b) Public Works Schemes</i>					
Nkata Bay-Vipya Road D.1895	..	..	..	11,061	.. 22,000
Secondary & Technical Education D.1672	..	..	..	3,543	.. —
Purchase of Road Plant D.2085	..	..	..	8,800	.. 3,328
Road Construction Organization D.2114	..	..	..	37,554	.. 24,559
African Housing D.1391 A-F	..	..	..	130,599	.. 25,578
Agricultural & Veterinary Training School D.2093	..	..	..	18,120	.. 3,250
Veterinary Training Centres D.2047	..	..	..	2,288	.. —
Waterborne Sewerage, Blantyre/Limbe HDRA D.2231	..	..	..	5,160	.. 73,000
African Housing on Outstations D.2569	..	..	..	19,700	.. 60,275
Lake Ports Survey D.1945	..	..	..	1,460	.. —

GRANTS UNDER THE COLONIAL DEVELOPMENT AND
WELFARE ACTS—(Continued)

			<i>Actual Revenue 1955/56 £</i>	<i>Estimated Revenue 1956/57 £</i>
Education D.2572				
(i)	Choma Secondary School	.. ..	5,291	} .. 76,315
(ii)	Soche Primary School	.. ..	14	
(iii)	Artisans Training Centre	.. ..	6,381	
(iv)	Dedza Secondary School	.. ..	15,336	
Road Reconstruction				
(i)	Chitala/Benga Road	.. ..	46,652	} .. 207,286
(ii)	Lower River Roads	.. ..	41,003	
(iii)	Sombani/Palombe/Fundis Cross Road	.. ..	—	
(iv)	Crop Extraction Roads, Central Province	.. ..	—	
(v)	Aerodrome Road, Zomba	.. ..	11,447	
(vi)	General Improvements, Provinces	.. ..	41,730	
(vii)	Road Plant D.1677	.. ..	2	
European Housing D.2595	.. ..	..	15,200	.. 31,200
Soche Welfare Centre D.2599	.. ..	..	—	.. 35,500
(c) <i>Central Fund Schemes</i>				
Lilongwe Experimental Station R.157	.. ..	..	13,656	.. 3,000
Lilongwe Experimental Station Extension Scheme	.. ..	..	—	.. 35,017
Tsetse Research R.307	.. ..	..	15	.. —
Mineralogical Survey D.878	.. ..	..	11,500	.. —
Silvicultural Research R.609	.. ..	..	4,789	.. 6,164
Lake Chilwa Rice Investigation D.2207	.. ..	..	9,619	.. 1,700
(d) <i>Forestry Schemes</i>				
Forestry Equipment D.1900	.. ..	..	3,424	.. —
Forestry Depot, Blantyre D.1944	.. ..	..	2,006	.. 1,179
Mudi Dam Afforestation D.1899	.. ..	..	11,258	.. 4,000
Forestry Utilization D.2343	.. ..	..	16,766	.. 13,035
Forestry D.2571				
(i)	Forestry Training School	.. ..	—	} .. 47,831
(ii)	Aerial Surveys	.. ..	1,230	
(iii)	Road Construction	.. ..	2,969	
(iv)	Communications (Fire Protection)	.. ..	—	
(e) <i>Miscellaneous Schemes</i>				
Junior Trade Training School D.2084	.. ..	..	9,200	.. —
Land Acquisition D.2570	.. ..	..	53,448	.. 79,800
Rural Water Supplies D.2568	.. ..	..	9,415	.. 5,404
Domasi Community Development D.846	.. ..	..	145	.. —
Mobile Book Van D.2127	.. ..	..	1,331	.. —
Meteorological Equipment D.1810	.. ..	..	6,151	.. —
Dipping Tank Scheme (new)	.. ..	..	—	.. 13,000
Fisheries Research Scheme (new)	.. ..	..	—	.. 6,028

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBILITIES

The following functions, previously administered by the Nyasaland Government, have been assumed by the Federal Government and are administered by the Federal Ministries listed below. Detailed reference to the administration of these functions will be contained in the Annual Reports of the Ministries concerned.

Ministry of Health	—Medical Services.
Ministry of Posts	—Post and Telecommunications.
Ministry of External Affairs	—External Affairs.
Ministry of Education	—All higher education and non-African Primary and Secondary education.
Ministry of Home Affairs	—Prisons, Federal Information, Films, Tourism, Immigration, Status of Aliens, Deportation, Archives.
Ministry of Transport and Communications	—Railways, Inter-territorial roads, Civil Aviation, Meteorology.
Ministry of Defence	—Military forces.
Ministry of Commerce and Industry	—Import and Export Control, Price Control, Federal Public Buildings, Shire Valley Project.
Ministry of Finance	—Customs, Income Tax, Currency, Coinage and Legal Tender, Loans, Exchange Control, Post Office Savings Bank, Audit.

PART II

Chapter 1

Population

THE last full census of the African population in Nyasaland was taken in 1945. All the fieldwork was of necessity done by African enumerators with little supervision and the census was not claimed to be any more than a useful and fairly accurate estimate of the African population. Previous censuses were taken in 1921, 1926 and 1931 while annual population estimates, largely based on the tax registers, are available dating back to 1901. The substantial fluctuations, which occur from year to year, indicate that these annual estimates are not very reliable.

A system of recording simple vital statistics was introduced in 1947. It is at present restricted to recording African births and deaths, district by district. Individual details are not recorded, nor are any certificates issued. Reliance has to be placed on the African village headman, whose duty it is to collect such information in respect of his village for transmission to the Native Authority and on occasion this system breaks down. The registration of African customary marriages is carried out in almost all parts of the Protectorate, but the data available is by no means complete, while details of the birth, death and infant mortality rates are unavailable and likely to remain so for some time to come.

In the conditions outlined above, it is only possible to speak in general terms of African population trends. The population is increasing steadily, being estimated at the end of 1956 to be 2,600,000 compared with 2,560,000 at the end of 1955. Between 1921 and 1931 the African population had increased by one-third and the 1945 census figures showed an increase of rather more than one-third of the 1931 figures. Thus the estimated African population had very nearly doubled in 25 years, but a proportion of this increase must be attributed to immigration into the Southern Province from Portuguese East Africa.

The number of men absent from the Protectorate, during 1956, was estimated to exceed 160,000, the majority being in Southern Rhodesia. A large percentage of these absentees, particularly those in the Rhodesias, return regularly to their homes and remain in close touch with Nyasaland.

The European and Asian populations continue to increase. Details of European births and deaths have been kept since 1901, and since 1920 immigration and emigration statistics in respect of Europeans and Asians have been compiled. Registration of all non-African births and

deaths is compulsory. The relatively small size of the European population enables accurate estimates to be made. The European population remained fairly static immediately before and during the war. In 1931 it stood at 1,975 and in 1945 at 1,948. Since the war, the population has increased with comparative rapidity, owing to the considerable expansion of the activities of both Government and commercial concerns and to the re-establishment of staffs depleted during the war years and in 1956 the European population was estimated at 7,000. The figure for 1955 was 6,300. The European population is a relatively young one. Retirement elsewhere after service in the Protectorate is still the rule, although there are exceptions.

The population of persons other than Africans and Europeans, maintaining a consistently high birthrate, increased from an estimated 1,573 in 1931 to 2,804 in 1945 and in 1956 was estimated to be 10,000. The 1955 estimate was 9,400. By occupation the majority of the men are traders and about one-third are now Nyasaland born.

Chapter 2

Occupations, Wages and Labour Organization

EMPLOYMENT

THE principal industries in Nyasaland are tea growing and manufacture, tobacco growing, grading and packing, building and general contracting, transport, light engineering, wholesale and retail trading, general farming and tung production.

The majority of Nyasaland Africans are engaged in the cultivation of their own village gardens, where they grow most, if not all, of their own and their family's food requirements. Some of them grow large quantities of marketable produce for sale to those in employment in industry, but the majority produce sufficient only for their own requirements, plus a small surplus for sale to provide money for a particular purpose; many, however, are engaged in tobacco and cotton production on African trust land, which is bought by the Agricultural Production and Marketing Board at fixed prices which take into account the expenses of running the marketing organization.

A large number take up paid employment, probably in excess of 160,000 at times of peak employment, and another 70,000 or more migrate each year to seek employment in neighbouring territories where wages are higher than in Nyasaland.

There is no clear-cut line of demarcation between the peasant and the worker and it can be stated that at present no class of unskilled workers exists which depends solely upon wage-earning for its livelihood. After a short period of work for an employer, either in Nyasaland or abroad, the average Nyasa returns to cultivate his own garden land. While this factor acts as a buffer against unemployment, it also operates conversely to produce a very heavy turn-over in labour with few remaining long enough in one job to acquire skill or training. A further result is that each year before the onset of the rains, when Africans must prepare their own gardens, there is a severe shortage of labour, handicapping labour-employing estates, particularly the tea estates and tobacco planters. The remedy is being sought by encouraging employers to build up permanent labour forces attached to the estate by the provision of good housing, amenities and wages. There are in this context many difficulties to be overcome, particularly the reluctance of the African to abandon his garden land. With the rapidly increasing population, however, and the consequent growing pressure on arable land, economic forces will inevitably accelerate the divorce.

The following estimate of the number of Africans in paid employment on 31st March, 1956, is based upon annual returns made by employers of five or more workers:—

<i>Industry</i>							<i>Numbers employed</i>
Agricultural undertakings (Tea, Tobacco, Tung estates and general farming)							59,450
Fishing	..	..	..	..	..	..	503
Building, Brickmaking and Contracting	..	..	..	..	..	..	5,884
Trading	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,405
Light Industry	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,788
Transport	..	..	..	..	..	..	6,483
Government and Local Government Services	..	..	..	..	..	..	20,606
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,324
TOTAL ..							<u>102,443</u>

No statistics are available of the numbers self-employed in subsistence agriculture, but the approximate numbers engaged during 1956 in tobacco and cotton production on African trust land were 57,784 and 31,164 respectively. A further 14,015 and 2,755 produced tobacco and cotton as tenants on private estates.

As Nyasaland is in the main an agricultural territory, the demand for labour is largely seasonal but, since the various seasons for planting, processing of crops, grading of tobacco, constructional works and the like, are spread over the year, there is no dead season in respect of employment and work is always available. The general shortage of skilled and semi-skilled labour continues, affecting particularly the building and constructional trades.

In the conditions described it will be seen that unemployment is not the problem that it is in more industrialized countries and that the average Nyasaland African is not in any real sense a wage-earner. Limited cash requirements mean that the usual economic incentives do not operate fully. Moreover, the Nyasaland African places a high value on leisure; he is inclined to work sporadically when it suits him and for limited purposes of his own. Incentives to work locally are not high; consumer goods at a price within his reach are sometimes in short supply; family ties are demanding and, casual work being everywhere plentiful, there remains little inducement to engage in permanent employment with its demands of efficiency and regular attendance. The poor diet of the African worker and the lack of a competent and responsible African supervisory class are further obstacles to obtaining an efficient labour force.

MIGRANT LABOUR

Wage rates in Nyasaland are low, compared with those current in the more highly industrialized countries of Southern and Northern Rhodesia and the Union of South Africa. There, constantly expanding mining and other industries need more and more labour and can afford,

and are prepared to pay, high wages to attract it. In an effort to counteract the attraction of higher wages abroad and to obtain an adequate supply of labour for their needs, local employers are paying increasing attention to improved amenities for their labour. These usually take the form of better housing, the provision of free mid-day meals for employees, recreational facilities, bonuses for regular attendance and in many cases wages higher than the legal minimum.

Nyasaland has for many years contributed substantially to the labour forces in adjoining territories and in the Union of South Africa. Away from home the Nyasa has an excellent reputation and a range of employment extending from unskilled labour to the highest posts which local conditions permit.

So long as the level of wages offering in other countries remains higher than that prevailing at home, the more ambitious and energetic Nyasa will always be tempted to seek employment abroad. Away from home his family and tribal commitments are not nearly so heavy and he is able to save more money; nor can the lure of strange countries be left out of account.

Tending to offset to some extent the outward flow of labour is the growing demand for skilled and semi-skilled workers within the Protectorate, leading to an increase in wage rates. Also to be taken into account are the greater opportunities for remunerative employment at home, resulting from the various development schemes, and the improved conditions and increased training facilities now provided by a number of Territorial and Federal Government Departments, notably the Police, Prisons, Medical, Posts and Telecommunications, Agriculture and Forestry Departments.

Large-scale migration, even if only temporary, eventually results in the disintegration of family life and in a decaying tribal structure; and once traditional social sanctions disappear they are difficult to replace. Out of an approximate 430,625 able-bodied males it is estimated that 141,900 were absent from the Protectorate in 1956. Of this total 100,000 were estimated to be in Southern Rhodesia, 30,000 in the Union of South Africa, 11,000 in Northern Rhodesia and some 900 in other territories.

The protection of the worker contracted for work abroad and the interests of his family are secured by a system of carefully controlled recruitment. The Witwatersrand Native Labour Association is the only organization permitted to recruit Nyasas for work in South Africa. The Association engages labour for employment in the Rand and Orange Free State gold mines and during 1956 was allowed a quota of 14,000 recruits. This quota was fully taken up in 1956. In 1955, 12,600 were recruited.

Apart from one company, which is permitted to recruit small numbers of Nyasas for short seasonal employment, recruitment for work in Southern Rhodesia is in the hands of the Rhodesian Native

Labour Supply Commission. During 1956, the Commission was allowed a quota of 10,000 recruits of whom 8,196 were actually engaged during the year, compared with 7,479 in 1955. The Commission was also granted a permit to recruit up to 8,500 Nyasas and aliens for employment at Kariba. The total number recruited under this permit was 2,843.

Both the above organizations recruit under a Governor's Permit, the renewal of which is sought annually. Their quotas of recruits and the areas from which these recruits may be taken are determined by factors which include local labour requirements and the local food supply situation. The planting season is normally a close season for recruiting. Recruits leave the Protectorate after medical examination and attestation under a contract which provides, *inter alia*, for deferred pay and family remittances while the worker is away and for his repatriation to the place of engagement on completion of his contract.

Although the number of labourers proceeding abroad under contract is large, the majority of migrant workers elect to go uncovenanted. The greatest number of these migrants go to Southern Rhodesia, for the Nyasa is a prohibited immigrant into the Union of South Africa, unless he is recruited for work in the gold mines.

The Migrant Labour Agreement, concluded between the Central African territories in 1947 in order to protect the interests of those who proceed abroad uncontrolled, has continued to operate satisfactorily. The main purpose of the Agreement is to mitigate, where possible, the economic and social evils which attend large-scale migration. Under its provisions the migrant worker, unless he is accompanied by his family, has to return home after two years abroad, and a monthly deduction has to be made from his wage. Part of this is paid back to him on his return in the form of deferred pay and part remitted by his employer to his home district, where it is paid over to dependents nominated by him. Provision is also made for free transport to Southern Rhodesia and back to Nyasaland on repatriation. In order to avoid excessive disintegration of the family, and the difficulties experienced by unsupported women and children who have to fend for themselves while their menfolk are away, migrant labourers are encouraged either to take their families with them to the Rhodesias or to send for them when they themselves are established in their work. In such a case the worker is not bound by the two-year limit, and increasing numbers of families are being reunited in this way.

The numbers of employers abroad who make the necessary deductions and then forward the remittances continue to increase annually. In consequence the family remittances which came back to Nyasaland in 1956 showed a corresponding increase. It is estimated that, including private remittances, just under £1,500,000 was received in the Protectorate during the year from migrant workers abroad.

For the purpose of establishing his identity no African may legally leave the Protectorate without an identity certificate. Before endorsing such a certificate for travel abroad, the District Commissioner or other authorized issuing officer must be satisfied that the applicant is not leaving the Protectorate to evade the satisfaction of just debts or other legal obligations. These latter often include Native Authority Orders to plant gardens and to make provision for dependents. The issuing officer must also be satisfied that the applicant has normally resided in the Protectorate for a continuous period of not less than six months prior to his application, unless he has merely returned home on leave and has a certificate that he is going back to assured employment.

The number of identity certificates, issued annually for travel abroad, remained fairly constant for several years prior to 1950, but since that date migration has increased sharply particularly to Southern Rhodesia. This is shown by the following figures:—

<i>Country of Destination</i>	<i>Average</i> 1946–50	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
Southern Rhodesia ..	22,853	30,235	41,289	39,975	45,797	46,072	50,760
Northern Rhodesia ..	1,309	2,882	2,971	3,555	5,595	5,624	5,638
South Africa ..	9,295	9,307	8,819	7,526	10,772	14,023	15,516
Other Territories ..	395	277	392	1,741	217	467	390
TOTAL ..	<u>33,852</u>	<u>42,701</u>	<u>53,471</u>	<u>52,797</u>	<u>62,381</u>	<u>66,186</u>	<u>72,304</u>

Nyasaland recognizes its responsibility for those of its people who migrate and the Protectorate Government maintains representatives in Johannesburg and Salisbury. During 1956 the work of these officers continued to increase. Again, they visited many centres of employment in the territories in which they were engaged and provided the Nyasaland Government with regular reports on the conditions obtaining there. The Nyasaland Government representative in Salisbury paid a number of visits to Kariba where many Nyasaland African migrants are employed. One of the important duties of these officers is to act as intermediaries in domestic enquiries by the migrant worker or by his family left in Nyasaland. In this respect they fulfil abroad many of the functions of a District Commissioner within the Protectorate and supply a much-felt need on the part of Nyasas abroad. Another valuable link between the migrant worker and his home is provided by the Missionary Societies who keep in touch with their members and maintain, with assistance from public funds, three European Labour Chaplains. The Labour Chaplains travel widely, ministering to the spiritual needs of those abroad and doing invaluable work in maintaining their links with Nyasaland. They also provide useful information to Government on labour conditions generally. When visiting Nyasaland congregations at the various centres of employment in Southern Rhodesia, films of Nyasaland and others of an educational and religious nature are exhibited free of charge on a

cinema projector provided from the Native Development and Welfare Fund. One of the chaplains has stated that this has been a means of bringing him into contact with many thousands of Nyasaland people hitherto unknown to him.

WAGES AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT

Although no alteration was made in the legal minimum wage during the year, it can be said that the majority of employers offer wages in excess of the present minimum. The African is becoming increasingly aware of the fact that his labour commands a price and generally it is only in the remote areas, or at places some distance from the main centres of employment, that the minimum wage is now offered.

Government introduced a further salaries revision during the year. It affected all grades of members of the African Civil Service from labourers to Junior Executive Division appointments. The all-round salary increase, which amounted to an approximate increase of 20 per cent., took in the former Cost of Living Allowance (assessed at some 10 per cent. of the unrevised salary).

Salaries of Government African employees now range as follows:—

<i>Subordinate employees</i>			
(Messengers, Caretakers, etc.)	..	..	£32 to £145 per annum
<i>Clerical Workers</i>	..	..	£88-10s to £458 per annum
Learners	..	..	£73-10s per annum
<i>Technical employees</i>			
Artisans and Technicians	..	..	£88-10s to £458 per annum
Apprentices	..	..	£44 to £81 per annum
<i>Executive Staff</i>			
Assistants and Inspectors	..	..	£307-10s to £620 per annum
<i>Higher Appointments</i>			
(District Assistants, etc.)	..	..	£450 to £825 per annum

Those occupying Government quarters are required to pay rent at rates varying from 1/48th to 1/16 of salary.

Similar rates are paid by private employers to workers of corresponding calibre.

For unskilled workers, the legal minimum wage rate has remained at 1s per day in the rural areas and 1s-4d per day in the townships. If the employer supplies food, adequate for the worker's full daily needs, he is entitled to deduct 5d a day in the townships or, in other areas, 3d per day. If he supplies a cooked midday meal, he is entitled to deduct 2d per day in the townships or 1½d per day in other areas. In practice, although many employers supply cooked midday meals, the meals are provided free, because employers prefer to regard such meals as incentives to work and regular attendance.

The maximum working week is 48 hours, but this again is seldom required by employers. In the case of manual workers work in excess of eight hours, multiplied by the number of working days in the normal period of contract, i.e., 208 hours in the case of a 26-day ticket contract, is defined as "overtime", and must be paid for at not less than one and a half times the basic cash wage. Work on Sundays, gazetted public holidays or on days which by the custom of any occupation or undertaking are observed as days of rest in lieu of Sundays or public holidays, must be paid for at double the basic rates.

Wages of agricultural workers are usually paid by the 30-day ticket, i.e., after 30 days' work has been completed. A weekly cash advance is given for the purpose of buying food, unless rations are provided. In the townships, unskilled and semi-skilled labour is usually paid at the end of each month for the number of days worked. In their case also, weekly advances are normally given. Skilled and clerical workers are often given a monthly salary. A few employers have recently introduced the system of weekly payment of wages, and this development is being encouraged.

Typical wage rates above the minimum level are:—

Unskilled employees	..	..	..	1s-4d to 2s	per day
Semi-skilled employees	..	..	..	2s-1d to 4s-9d	per day
Skilled employees					
Capitaos (Overseers and Foremen)			}	1s-3d to 29s-4d per day	
Drivers					
Clerical Workers	..	..	..	1s-2d to 26s-11d	per day

Amongst agricultural workers and unskilled workers in general it is becoming increasingly common for employers to offer a weekly bonus for regular attendance at work.

It is obligatory for employers to provide housing for any employee who is unable to return home at the end of his day's work. Much of the housing provided, until recently, consisted of wattle-and-daub buildings with grass roofs. It is now becoming more widely recognized, however, that not only is such housing uneconomic, but that modern and comfortable housing must be provided to attract a permanent labour force. Advice and encouragement have been given by the Labour Department, and many of the more progressive employers are now erecting modern, permanent buildings. While there is still a tremendous backlog to be made up, it is encouraging to report that most of the tea estates in the Southern Province are extending and improving their African housing and that an extensive housing scheme has been undertaken by one of the largest estates in the Cholo area. The Railways continue to expand their housing estate at Limbe each year. The outstanding achievement is, however, a model village under construction, belonging to the Imperial Tobacco Company near Limbe. When fully completed, in about two years time, this planned village will represent one of the finest African housing schemes in Southern Africa. In the Central and Northern Provinces, except in the case of the Colonial Development Corporation and Government, little progress has been made to date.

Government and the local authorities have also given earnest consideration to the housing problem. In the major townships sufficient land has been made available for high density housing areas, and housing is now becoming available. The Soche High Density Residential Area, situated close to the Blantyre/Limbe Township, is a case in point. There, over 450 houses were built under Government contract during 1956 for renting and hire-purchase by Africans. There is also a scheme for such areas whereby loans may be granted to individual Africans towards the cost of building their own houses from their own savings and earnings.

The wages of domestic servants have tended to rise in sympathy with the increase in unskilled labour rates. Junior grades, who are often juveniles, range in pay between 17s-6d and 30s per month, while senior grades are paid between £2 and £5 per month. In addition, weekly food allowances are paid ranging from 2s to 3s-6d per week. Free quarters, uniforms and fuel for cooking purposes are also provided.

COST OF LIVING

Adequate statistical machinery is not available for the compilation of price indices. Such indices would, in any case, be misleading when applied to the cost of African foodstuffs, owing to the great variety of units and measures used in inter-African sales. Most commodities are sold by "pennyworths" in the African markets, and the amount given varies according to the harvest and the seller's generosity, rather than because of any variation in world prices. Sample prices of some of the foodstuffs during 1956 were:—

		<i>Country Markets</i>	<i>Township Markets</i>
Meat	.. ..	1s-3d per lb.	1s-6d per lb.
Fish	.. ..	6d to 1s each	6d to 1s each
Eggs	.. ..	1s to 1s-6d per dozen	2s to 2s-6d per dozen
Milk (condensed)	.. ..	1s-10d per tin	1s-10d per tin
Bread	.. ..	8d to 1s-4d per loaf	8d to 1s-4d per loaf
Sugar	.. ..	9d per lb.	8d to 9d per lb.
Tea	.. ..	4s-6d per lb.	4s-6d per lb.
Beans	.. ..	2d to 3d per lb.	3d to 4d per lb.
Maize flour	.. ..	1½d to 2½d per lb.	2½d per lb.
Rice	.. ..	8d to 10d per lb.	8d to 10d per lb.

Wages of all employees are now inclusive since cost of living allowance is no longer paid to those in Government service and employers are permitted to make a deduction for food supplied.

As the African worker is often self-sufficient as regards basic foodstuffs, and in addition normally has a surplus which he sells, it is difficult to assess, with any degree of accuracy, the effect upon his cost of living of increases in the prices of the agricultural commodities which form the bulk of his diet.

LABOUR DEPARTMENT

The growth of the Department's activities during 1956, as a result of industrial expansion, has necessitated further increases during the year in field staff; the increases have consisted of two Labour Officers, two Labour Inspectors, three Labour Assistants, four clerks and nine messengers. The headquarters of the Department have remained at Zomba, while Provincial Labour Offices are located at Blantyre for the Southern Province and at Lilongwe for the Central and Northern Provinces. Migrant labour, outside the Protectorate in Rhodesia or South Africa, continues to be under the care of Nyasaland Government representatives at Salisbury and Johannesburg respectively.

District Labour offices are maintained at all District and Sub-district Headquarters and are staffed by clerks of the Department usually under the supervision of a Labour Assistant. Labour Assistants and Labour Inspectors, apart from their normal routine inspection duties, are also responsible for the attestation of labour recruited for work outside the Protectorate; during 1956 they have been particularly fully engaged on this type of work for the Kariba project in Southern Rhodesia. The duties of the African staff also include the preparation of travel documents, work books and labour statistics, and the payment of family remittances and deferred pay under the Migrant Labour Workbook Scheme.

A Labour Officer was appointed to cover the Mlanje/Cholo/Port Herald area and a new office was opened at Cholo so that the officer would be centrally located for inspection duties.

Furthermore, during the latter part of the year, a Trade Testing Officer was appointed with a view to setting up a Protectorate-wide Trade Testing Organization which, it is hoped, will be started in the latter half of 1957.

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

As has been stated earlier, agricultural or semi-agricultural pursuits absorb the great majority of Nyasaland's unskilled labour force. Only a small proportion of the total are dependent solely on their wages. If their work or their treatment is not to their liking they return to their villages or move on elsewhere; there is no lack of opportunity for the worker, whether skilled or unskilled, since demand greatly exceeds supply. Under these conditions there is little incentive to trade-unionism and it is only in the relatively few non-agricultural undertakings that any inclination on the part of labour to organize itself is apparent.

Legal machinery for the settlement of disputes is provided by the Trade Disputes (Arbitration and Settlement) Ordinance enacted during 1952. This provides for conciliation by the Labour Department in the event of trade disputes arising. Should this fail, provision is made for arbitration, voluntary in the case of ordinary trade disputes, compulsory in the case of certain services scheduled as essential. Strikes or lockouts in such essential services are illegal.

Ten trade unions are registered under the Trade Unions and Trade Disputes Ordinance. These are:—

- (i) The Nyasaland African Motor Transport Workers' Union, registered in April, 1949;
- (ii) The Nyasaland Employers' Association (formerly known as the Nyasaland Employers' Motor Transport and Traders Association), registered in August, 1949;
- (iii) The Nyasaland Railways Asian Union, registered in June, 1950;
- (iv) The Commercial African Employees' Trade Union, registered in September, 1952;
- (v) The Nyasaland Railways African Workers' Union, registered in September, 1954;
- (vi) The Nyasaland Motor Traders' Association, registered on 30th April, 1954;
- (vii) The Nyasaland Master Builders and Allied Trades Association, registered on 21st December, 1955;
- (viii) The Nyasaland Trade Union Congress, registered on 25th June, 1956;
- (ix) The Nyasaland Road Transport Operators' Association registered on 31st August, 1956;
- (x) The African Master Sawyers' Association, registered on 25th September, 1956.

The Nyasaland Employers' Association is a general trade union of employers, but divided into sections representing the various industries. The Motor Traders', Master Builders', Transport Operators' and Master Sawyers' Associations are all combinations of employers whose principle objects are to regulate relations between employer and employee in the various trades.

The Railways African Workers' Trade Union is a comparatively new union registered in 1954, and has not at present fully established itself. The two other African unions cover motor transport workers and non-manual and clerical workers in commercial and professional undertakings, chiefly in Blantyre. None of the workers' organizations can be described as fully representative. The majority of workers are still unorganized, thus it has not as yet been possible to set up formal machinery between employers and workers for collective bargaining and negotiation. Industrial relations, however, have continued to be generally good.

To provide opportunities for the ventilation of any grievances that may arise and to try to infuse into the workers some personal interest in their affairs, some of the more progressive employers have established works committees. These are serving a useful purpose. Encouragement to form such committees is given by the Labour Department and the system has been adopted by the Nyasaland Railways, Imperial Tobacco Company and such Government Departments as the Public Works,

Post and Telecommunications and Printing Departments. The African Civil Servants' Association negotiates with Government on matters affecting the conditions of the African Civil Service and the European and Asian Civil Servants' Associations negotiate on matters affecting the European and Asian Civil Servants.

Standing Labour Advisory Boards function in each Province. Membership of the Boards includes representatives of Government, of employers and of employees. All Provincial labour matters, including wage rates, conditions of employment and industrial relations, come within their purview and it is their duty to advise Government on such matters. They also consider and advise on any matters concerning labour, including existing and proposed legislation, which may be referred to them by Government or by the Commissioner for Labour.

Thus machinery exists for the settlement of industrial disputes, although as yet there has been no dispute of any great consequence. If the Nyasaland worker is dissatisfied with his pay or treatment he is after all in the position of being able to move elsewhere in the certainty of finding other work. Seven stoppages of work took place in 1956 compared with nine in 1955 and six in 1954.

LABOUR LEGISLATION

The employment of African labour in the Protectorate is governed by the African Employment Ordinance, enacted in 1954.

This Ordinance makes provision for the appointment of officers to implement it, grants them powers of inspection and details their duties. It provides for the making of contracts of employment and requires employers to be specific in such items as housing, food and medical attention which must be included in all types of contracts.

The Ordinance also governs the issue of recruiting permits for recruits required to work both within and outside the territory.

Under the Workmen's Compensation Ordinance, 1954, which applies to all races, provision is made for those who are injured as a result of, and in the course of, their employment so that they receive compensation; in the case of fatal accidents, dependents are compensated according to the degree of dependancy.

The Wages and Conditions of Employment Ordinance, 1949, makes provision for the setting up of Advisory Boards to advise the Governor on the rates of wages and conditions of employment in any occupation or undertaking and also for Standing Advisory Boards in respect of any area.

The Trade Union and Trade Disputes Ordinance, enacted in 1944, forbids a trade union or any member thereof from performing any act in furtherance of its purposes unless the trade union has first been registered with the Registrar of Trade Unions. Any seven or more members of a trade union may register such a union,

The Trade Disputes (Arbitration and Settlement) Ordinance, 1952, provides for the establishment of Arbitration Tribunals and the making of inquiries in connection with trade disputes and for the settlement of such disputes generally; it makes special provision for the settlement of disputes in essential services and for the maintenance as far as possible of essential services pending the settlement of such disputes.

Under the African Emigration and Immigrant Workers Ordinance, 1954, provision is made for the regulation of the emigration of Africans from the Protectorate and for the control of the movements of Africans to and from the Protectorate and Northern and Southern Rhodesia.

The Ordinance is a reciprocal one with Northern and Southern Rhodesia and gives support to the provisions of the 1947 Tripartite Migrant Labour Agreement entered into by the three territories of the Federation. It ensures that migrant workers from either of the other territories make provision for their dependants in their home territory and it also ensures the repatriation of workers to their homes on the expiration of their contracts of service with savings in their possession.

The employment of workers not of African descent is not governed by statute except in so far as Workmen's Compensation, Trade Unions, and Trade Disputes are concerned.

The contracts of service of such workers are subject to the normal provisions of civil law as in any other country where workers are competent to look after their own interests without the support of statutory provision.

No amendments to the above legislation were enacted during 1956 and, with the exception of the usual annual notice prescribing the period during which recruiting for work outside the territory should cease, there was no subsidiary legislation.

SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELFARE

There are two Factories Inspectors whose duties are to ensure as far as possible that only machinery which is adequately guarded is installed and that unsafe practices are prevented. In addition, they are required to perform the duties of Surveyors of Ships.

The number of factories registered has now increased to 662 but this figure includes 391 maize mills; several factories have been extended and additional plant installed, with the result that the number of persons now employed in factories has again increased. Approximately 60 per cent. of the total number of factories (including maize mills) are in the Southern Province.

Only 27 accidents were reported to the Factories Board during 1956. Four of them were fatal.

Three fires in tea factories occurred during the year, two of which resulted in the total destruction of the factories. There were, however, no casualties.

No cases of occupational diseases were reported to the Board,

Among the duties of Factories Inspectors is that of inspecting and surveying vessels which sail on Lake Nyasa. There are now 85 vessels which are constantly examined to ensure the safety of passengers.

The provisions of the Workmen's Compensation Ordinance apply to workmen employed in every form of occupation except that of private domestic service. The number of claims handled by officers of the Labour Department continues to increase each year which is partly due to an increasing awareness of the legislation, rather than to any inordinate increase in the number of accidents.

No serious epidemics occurred amongst the working population. Medical Officers of Health are stationed in most districts and are always ready when requested to give advice to employers regarding such matters as sanitation and housing. Health Inspectors have been appointed by the Blantyre/Limbe Town Council. Minimum standards of housing have been laid down for the townships, and attention is being given to the provision of proper sanitation. All Africans are entitled to free medical treatment at all Federal Government hospitals, health units and dispensaries. Most of the large estates maintain dispensaries of their own, and, in addition, all employers are required to provide their employees with medical attention during illness, where the illness is caused by their employment.

Housing, provided by employers for their labour, is beginning to improve, and many of the more progressive employers are replacing old-fashioned "labour lines" with modern buildings built in permanent weather-proof materials. Sanitary facilities in factories have continued to improve.

In the field of welfare, apart from the provision of housing, medical attention and compensation in case of accident, there has been little development. There is no legislation which provides for insurance against sickness, old age and premature death nor for unemployment benefits, but a considerable measure of protection is afforded by tribal customs. The care of the aged and sick and of widows and dependent children is still traditionally a family responsibility. The retention of an interest in garden land by practically all African workers is also a bulwark against want. Government and a few of the larger employers operate non-contributory pension schemes for their permanent employees, and a number give gratuities for long service. Tax exemption is granted by Government, either temporarily or for life, according to the circumstances of the case, to elderly or infirm Africans who are without means to pay.

VOCATIONAL AND INDUSTRIAL TRAINING

There is a severe shortage of artisans and craftsmen in Nyasaland, and, with the growing demand for qualified men, plans are now in hand for an extension of facilities for technical education and training. A secondary school, with a technical wing, exists in Dedza in the Central Province, and a junior trade school was opened during 1954, near

Blantyre in the Southern Province. It is intended that in the near future a new technical training centre to replace that at Dedza will be opened at Blantyre, absorbing the students from both the former schools. Arrangements are also being made to extend assistance to selected mission schools providing a course similar to that provided at the Government trade school.

Apart from technical and vocational schools, several Territorial and Federal Government Departments run their own training schemes, which are summarized below:—

<i>Department</i>	<i>Occupation</i>	<i>Under training in 1956</i>	<i>Trained in 1956</i>
Agriculture	Instructors	71	—
	Courses for Chiefs, Councillors, etc.	972	972
	Refresher Courses	116	116
Co-operative Development	Cashiers and scale clerks	50	50
Education	Artisans	44	44
	Clerks	16	16
	Teachers	139	139
Forestry	Survey Assistants	1	—
Government Press ..	Apprentices	36	3
Medical	Medical Aides	102	33
	Medical Assistants	9	6
	Midwives	18	4
	Health Assistants (Final)	8	7
	Health Assistants (1st year)	10	9
	Health Assistants (Prel.)	7	—
	Nurses	8	7
	Refresher Courses	84	—
Posts and Telecommunica- tions	Executive staff	37	37
	Technical staff	9	9
Prisons	Warders	60	60
Surveys	Survey Assistants	17	9
Veterinary	Assistants	19	11

The Police Training School continued to operate throughout the year and 505 men received training.

The bulk of the industrial training is, however, provided through the learner system, as operated by the Public Works Department, by which trainees work on the actual job under qualified artisans. A number of apprentices were indentured to the Government Printer during 1956 and are undergoing a seven-year apprenticeship.

No form of “training within industry” has yet been developed in the Protectorate.

Chapter 3

Public Finance and Taxation

GENERAL

THE financial year of the Protectorate now runs from 1st July to 30th June to correspond with the financial year adopted by the Federal Government and the Rhodesias. In order to effect the change from a calendar financial year the 1953 Protectorate Estimates were extended for a period of six months from 1st January, 1954, to 30th June, 1954: the 1953/54 financial period was therefore of 18 months' duration and as a result does not provide a basis for the comparison of revenue and expenditure with that of previous or succeeding financial years.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE

Comparative total figures are:—

			<i>Revenue</i> £		<i>Expenditure</i> £
1953/54 Actual (18 months)	..	..	7,714,708	..	7,655,463
1954/55 Actual	..	..	4,302,542	..	4,231,208
1955/56 Actual	..	..	5,173,015	..	5,026,437
1956/57 Estimate	..	..	6,458,036	..	6,665,470

The main heads of taxation and yields from each are as follows:—

	18 months <i>Actual</i> 1953/54	<i>Actual</i> 1954/55	<i>Actual</i> 1955/56	<i>Estimate</i> 1956/57
	£	£	£	£
Import Duties	1,168,869	51,947	18,755	—
Native Tax	714,615	527,376	616,936	590,709
Income Tax	790,445	—	—	—
Share of Federal Income Tax	627,672	1,745,495	1,825,318	2,433,000
Territorial Surcharge on Federal Income Tax	—	77,130	179,089	150,000
Non-Native Poll Tax	39,521	21,597	22,521	23,000
Estate Duties	42,340	30,923	49,417	17,820
Stamp Duties	24,304	21,835	26,525	21,500
<i>Licences:—</i>				
Arms and ammunition	10,501	6,165	6,353	6,250
Bicycles	59,344	67,221	72,765	70,000
Game	4,405	2,841	3,235	3,000
Liquor	2,925	2,460	2,670	3,000
Miscellaneous	1,401	619	512	800
Motor Vehicles	73,578	47,691	52,502	50,000
Trading	69,723	39,715	40,158	42,000

With effect from 1st January, 1954, Customs Import Duties (except duties on imported motor spirit) and Income Tax (except for a territorial income tax surcharge) levied in Nyasaland have been collected for the account of the Government of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland. Income Tax Revenue for the first half of 1954 and subsequent financial years consists of the Nyasaland share of Income Tax (6 per cent.) collected throughout the Federation plus the territorial surcharge on the Federal Income Tax.

**DETAILS OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1953/56, AND ESTIMATES OF
REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1956/57**

REVENUE	18 months Actual 1953/54	Actual 1954/55	Actual 1955/56	Estimate 1956/57
	£	£	£	£
Customs	1,502,707	51,947	18,754	(a) —
Taxes, Licences, etc.:—				
Income Tax	(b) 790,445	—	—	—
Share of Federal Income Tax ..	627,672	1,745,495	1,825,318	2,433,000
Territorial Surcharge on Federal Tax	—	77,130	179,089	150,000
Other	1,053,064	776,650	903,064	837,564
Fees of Court, etc.	2,005,981	34,039	48,377	42,685
Posts and Telecommunications ..	290,029	—	—	—
Electrical Services—Reimbursement ..	29,980	23,304	44,365	95,463
Rents	93,487	51,455	66,353	62,345
Interest	201,024	204,257	85,768	91,645
Miscellaneous	180,965	32,678	181,988	(c) 430,937
Forestry Revenue	70,082	74,602	119,605	151,560
Reimbursements	—	122,206	89,940	126,721
Payment for Specific Services	—	73,178	74,693	90,388
Reimbursements from Federal Government	—	306,967	337,576	563,194
Payments for services rendered on behalf of Federal Government	—	226,534	403,040	477,800
Sale of Government Property	—	25,841	33,205	33,473
TOTAL ORDINARY REVENUE	6,845,436	3,826,283	4,411,135	5,586,775
Colonial Development and Welfare Grants	804,973	420,940	669,066	778,449
Trans-Zambesia Railway Debenture Interest and Redemption	64,299	55,320	92,814	92,812
TOTAL REVENUE	7,714,708	4,302,543	5,173,015	6,458,036

- (a) All customs revenue save in respect of duty on motor spirit accrues to the Federal Government, but with effect from 12th August, 1955, duty is no longer payable on motor spirit entering Nyasaland.
- (b) From this amount income tax collections January/March, 1954, amounting to £74,354 have subsequently been paid to the Federal Government.
- (c) This figure includes a contribution of £200,000 from development reserve.

EXPENDITURE	18 months Actual 1953/54	Actual 1954/55	Actual 1955/56	Estimate 1956/57
	£	£	£	£
Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary ..	619,169	508,465	665,825	875,290
Education	500,006	304,067	(a) 346,532	384,501
Medical	409,758	—	(a) —	—
Police and Prisons	423,148	293,269	(a) 312,395	390,002
Post Office	277,615	—	(a) —	—
Provincial and District Administration ..	276,067	203,848	200,244	281,504
Public Debt Charges	348,183	239,464	(b) 251,681	(c) 368,736
Public Works Department, Public Works Annually Recurrent, and Public Works Extraordinary	1,399,340	1,197,631	(a) 1,438,636	2,045,788
Other Services	3,402,177	1,484,464	(a) 1,811,124	2,319,649
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	7,655,463	4,231,208	5,026,437	6,665,470

- (a) European, Asian and higher African Education, Medical Services, Prisons, Post Office, Audit, Income Tax, Civil Aviation, Customs and certain inter-territorial roads are now the responsibility of the Federal Government.
- (b) Reimbursable by the Federal Government.
- (c) Reimbursable by the Federal Government to the extent of £239,213 balance to meet servicing charges on 1955/56 Borrowings, 1956/57 Borrowings of Federal loan monies and Rhodesian Selection Trust Loan of £1,000,000.

Both revenue and expenditure in 1955/56 showed a decrease on the original estimates, which were:—

Revenue	..	£5,708,298
Expenditure	..	£5,906,577

Since under-expenditure exceeded the shortfall in revenue, there was an actual surplus of £146,578 instead of the expected deficit of £198,279. The main factor contributing to the under-expenditure was the insufficient constructional capacity of the Public Works Department, contractors and other agencies, resulting in a net under-expenditure of £542,007 on the approved programme. Expenditure by the Forestry Department was £80,544 less than expected, mainly on account of delays in the delivery of machinery and equipment. The balance of the under-expenditure, amounting to £257,589, was spread fairly evenly over the remaining departments and services.

The shortfall in revenue amounted to £535,282. This is mainly attributable to an over-estimate of £278,004 of the grants expected from Colonial Development and Welfare funds, which, in some measure, is related to the under-expenditure by the Public Works Department mentioned in the preceding paragraph. A contribution from the Development Reserve towards the cost of the capital programme was not called for because of the under-expenditure on that programme. An item of revenue not provided for in the Estimates under this head was the receipt of £121,181 from the Federal Government in respect of a fiscal adjustment made to compensate Nyasaland for the adverse effect, in relation to the other Territories of the Federation, of the operation of the Congo Basin Treaties. This, together with other over- and under-estimates of revenue in respect of miscellaneous items of revenue, resulted in a net shortfall of £221,392.

A statement of Assets and Liabilities as at the 30th June, 1956, is set out in an appendix to this chapter.

PUBLIC DEBT

The Federal Government became responsible for the servicing of the whole of the public debt of the Protectorate as at 23rd October, 1953, in accordance with the recommendations of the Apportionment Commission appointed under the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland (Constitution) Order in Council, 1953.

The Public Debt was then as follows:—

Loan from H.M. Government, 1945, for re-loan to Trans-	£
Zambesia Railway	727,095
3% East Africa Guaranteed Loan 1954/74	1,570,000
4½% Development Loan 1971/78	2,060,000
Interest free loan from H.M. Government, 1952	1,290,000
Expenditure incurred before 23rd October, 1953, in anti-	
pation of raising a loan	581,393
	6,228,488

The Public Debt of the Protectorate as at 30th June, 1956, stood at £1,900,000, composed of Rhodesian Selection Trust Loan of £1,000,000 and share of Federal Loan monies amounting to £900,000. Expenditure amounting to £98,532 up to the 30th June, 1956, has been incurred pending the borrowing of £1,000,000 from the Colonial Development Corporation.

TAXATION

Native Tax

A poll tax is payable by all male Africans resident in Nyasaland over the apparent age of 18 years. It is in no sense a hut tax since no African is liable to pay extra tax in respect of additional residences. Exemption may be granted to the aged and infirm who are without means to pay, and to *bona fide* African visitors in possession of a valid document permitting them to travel, issued in their country of origin, who are not employed or seeking employment in the country and not remaining longer than three continuous months. The Governor possesses certain additional powers of exemption.

The rate of tax, which is variable, is prescribed by the Governor in Council under the Native Tax Ordinance of 1939. In 1956 the rate was 17s-6d throughout the Protectorate (excluding two small islands in Lake Nyasa where the rate was 10s). This rate was the same as that for 1955. Of this 17s-6d tax the Native Treasuries received a share of 9s. The share of tax continued to form the largest single item of the revenue of the treasuries.

Under legislation, introduced in 1951, a defaulter, who has failed to pay tax by the 30th September in any year, is liable after that date to pay such amount in addition to the tax as the Governor in Council may specify. During 1956 the additional amount specified by the Governor in Council was again 7s-6d for the whole Protectorate (except for the two small islands in Lake Nyasa where the additional amount was 5s). Thus, generally speaking, the tax increased automatically to 25s on 1st October, 1956, in respect of payment for that year.

The tax is collected by African tax collectors, working under the direction of the Native Authorities and under the general control of District Commissioners. The estimated yield for the financial year 1956/57 is £590,709 compared with the actual collection of £616,935 for 1955/56.

Income Tax

The Federal Government assumed responsibility for the imposition and collection of taxes on incomes and profits from the 1st April, 1954. Three types of taxation are imposed by the Federal Income Tax Act, 1954, viz.:

Income Tax,
Supertax, and
Undistributed Profits Tax.

At the same time Africans, previously exempt from income tax, became liable to pay this tax.

The basic rates of Federal income tax for the assessment year 1955/56 were as follows:—

				Per £1		
				<i>Married persons</i>	<i>Single persons</i>	<i>Companies</i>
First	£500	of taxable income	..	9d	1s-3d	} 6s-3d for each £1 of taxable in- come
Second	£500	„	„	1s-3d	2s-0d	
Third	£500	„	„	2s-0d	3s-0d	
Fourth	£500	„	„	3s-0d	4s-6d	
Fifth	£500	„	„	4s-6d	6s-3d	
Over	£2,500	„	„	6s-3d	6s-3d	

The rebates deductible from Federal income tax were:—

Primary:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------|
| (1) Married persons | £37-10s-0d |
| (2) Single persons | £25-0s-0d |
| (3) Companies | Nil |

- (i) A married person is not liable for income tax if his taxable income does not exceed £800;
- (ii) A single person is not liable for income tax if his taxable income does not exceed £400;
- (iii) A company is liable for income tax from the first pound of taxable income received or accrued.

Children:

For each child	£22-10s-0d
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Dependants:

For each dependant:—

Where maintenance is between

£50 and £150	£15-0s-0d
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Where maintenance is in excess
of £150

£22-10s-0d

Insurance Premiums and Benefit Fund

Contributions	3s per £1 of premiums and contributions (maximum £45)
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Blind Persons	£200
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Food Farmers	30 per cent. of net income (subject to limitation, but maximum in the case of any individual or company, £1,000).
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Supertax

Federal supertax is imposed on individuals, and also on certain classes of companies incorporated outside the Federation after the 31st March, 1953. The following abatements from supertaxable income are allowed:—

Individuals {	Married persons ..	£3,000
	Single persons ..	£2,000
Companies liable to supertax ..		£2,000

The rates of supertax for both classes of taxpayer, after deducting the above abatements are:—

First	£2,000 of the supertaxable amount	..	9d per £1
Second	£2,000 ,, ,, ,, ,,	..	2s-0d per £1
Thereafter	.. .. .	..	3s-3d per £1

Undistributed Profits Tax

Private companies, and certain public companies, incorporated within the Federation, are liable to pay undistributed profits tax. The rates applicable for the assessment year ended 31st March, 1956, are:—

First	£2,000 of undistributed profits	..	1s-6d per £1
Balance of undistributed profits	..	..	3s-0d per £1

Territorial Surcharge

In addition to the Federal income tax legislation, Nyasaland legislation imposes a Territorial surcharge upon individuals and bodies corporate at the following rates:—

- (i) On resident individuals:—
20 per cent. of the total amount payable as basic Federal tax (income tax and supertax after deduction of rebates).
- (ii) On bodies corporate:—
1s-3d in the £ for each £1 of taxable income derived from sources in the Territory.

(iii) The following comparative tables give an indication of the level of tax on the income of individuals:—

MARRIED PERSONS (NO CHILDREN)									
		(a)		(b)		(c)		(d)	
Income		Federal Income Tax		Federal Supertax		Nyasaland Territorial Surcharge (on a + b)		Total taxes Payable	
£		£ s		£ s		£ s		£ s	
Up to	800	..	..	—	..	—	..	—	..
At	900	..	..	6 5	..	1 5	..	7 10	..
	1,000	..	..	12 10	..	2 10	..	15 0	..
	1,100	..	..	22 10	..	4 10	..	27 0	..
	1,200	..	..	32 10	..	6 10	..	39 0	..
	1,300	..	..	42 10	..	8 10	..	51 0	..
	1,400	..	..	52 10	..	10 10	..	63 0	..
	1,500	..	..	62 10	..	12 10	..	75 0	..
	1,600	..	..	77 10	..	15 10	..	93 0	..
	1,700	..	..	92 10	..	18 10	..	111 0	..
	1,800	..	..	107 10	..	21 10	..	129 0	..
	1,900	..	..	122 10	..	24 10	..	147 0	..
	2,000	..	..	137 10	..	27 10	..	165 0	..
	2,500	..	..	250 0	..	50 0	..	300 0	..
	3,000	..	..	406 5	..	81 5	..	487 10	..
	4,000	..	..	718 15	..	151 5	..	907 10	..
	5,000	..	..	1,031 5	..	221 5	..	1,327 10	..
	6,000	..	..	1,343 15	..	303 15	..	1,822 10	..
	7,000	..	..	1,656 5	..	386 5	..	2,317 10	..
For each £1 in excess of £7,000	..	..	6s-3d	..	3s-3d	..	1s-10.8d	..	11s-4.8d

		UNMARRIED PERSONS							
		(a)		(b)		(c)		(d)	
Income		Federal Income Tax		Federal Supertax		Nyasaland Territorial Surcharge (on a + b)		Total taxes payable	
£		£	s	£	s	£	s	£	s
Up to	400	—		—		—		—	
At	500	6	5	—		1	5	7	10
	600	16	5	—		3	5	19	10
	700	26	5	—		5	5	31	10
	800	36	5	—		7	5	43	10
	900	46	5	—		9	5	55	10
	1,000	56	5	—		11	5	67	10
	1,100	71	5	—		14	5	85	10
	1,200	86	5	—		17	5	103	10
	1,300	101	5	—		20	5	121	10
	1,400	116	5	—		23	5	139	10
	1,500	131	5	—		26	5	157	10
	1,600	153	15	—		30	15	184	10
	1,700	176	5	—		35	5	211	10
	1,800	198	15	—		39	15	238	10
	1,900	221	5	—		44	5	265	10
	2,000	243	15	—		48	15	292	10
	2,500	400	0	18	15	83	15	502	10
	3,000	556	5	37	10	118	15	712	10
	4,000	868	15	75	0	188	15	1,132	10
	5,000	1,181	5	175	0	271	5	1,627	10
	6,000	1,493	15	275	0	353	15	2,122	10
Foreach £1 in excess of £6,000		6s-3d		3s-3d		1s-10.8d		11s-4.8d	

The Federal Constitution provides for the payment to the revenue of the Nyasaland Government of 6 per cent. of the proceeds of taxes on income and profits after deduction of the cost of collection. The estimated revenue from this source in the financial year 1956/57 is £2,433,000.

Non-Native Poll Tax

A non-native poll tax is payable by all non-native males over 18 years of age resident in the Protectorate, except those merely on a temporary visit not exceeding six months. The tax is £4 for those resident in the country on 1st January, or those who arrive before 30th June. Those who arrive between 1st July and 31st December pay only £2 in respect of the year of entry. Failure to pay the tax within three months of the date on which it falls due renders the defaulter liable to double payment. The estimated yield from the tax in the financial year 1956/57 is £23,000, as compared with the actual collection in the financial year 1955/56 of £22,521.

Estate Duties

The payment of estate duty in the Protectorate continued in 1956 to be governed by the Estate Duty Ordinance, 1946, as subsequently amended. On a person's death, estate duty is payable under the Ordinance on all property in the Protectorate beneficially owned by the deceased at the time of his death, and, if the deceased was domiciled in Nyasaland at that time, on all personal property so owned by the deceased wherever situated. During recent years there has been a steady increase in the number of non-Africans domiciled in Nyasaland and consequently, since the enactment of the Estate Duty Ordinance, considerable sums have been collected from the estates of such persons.

The Ordinance contains provision for relief against the payment of "double duty" in the Protectorate and the United Kingdom or British territories with reciprocal legislation, such as Southern or Northern Rhodesia. No duty in the nature of legacy or succession duty is payable. The present schedule of rates of estate duty was laid down by an amendment to the Estate Duty Ordinance in July, 1956, as the result of the report of a Committee appointed to examine the Nyasaland legislation in relation to that in the other Territories of the Federation, and brings the Nyasaland rates into line with those in Northern Rhodesia, except that the existing Nyasaland provision with regard to estates of less than £10,000 in value inherited in whole or in part by a surviving spouse has been retained. Examples of estate duty payable are as follows:—

Estates exceeding	£		but not exceeding	£	£
	2,000		5,000		1 per cent.
" "	5,000	" "	7,500		2 per cent.
" "	7,500	" "	10,000		3 per cent.
" "	10,000	" "	20,000		4 per cent.
" "	20,000	" "	40,000		5 per cent.
" "	40,000	" "	70,000		6 per cent.
" "	70,000	" "	100,000		7 per cent.
" "	100,000	" "	200,000		8 per cent.
" "	200,000	" "	300,000		9 per cent.
" "	300,000				10 per cent.

Where an estate of less than £10,000 in value is inherited in whole or in part by a surviving spouse, half the above rates only shall be charged on the whole or such part of the estate as is inherited by the surviving spouse.

DISTRICT COUNCIL AND NATIVE AUTHORITY TREASURIES

Under the Local Government (District Councils) Ordinance and under the Native Authority Ordinance, treasuries have been established in respect of all the District Councils and Native Authorities. In Districts where a District Council has been established the Native Authorities collect revenue and make disbursements on behalf of the Council and maintain sub-treasuries for that purpose. In Districts where no District Council exists the Native Authorities have federated their treasuries on a district basis with a view to strengthening their financial position. Native Authority Treasuries are under the control of the Native Authorities, are directly supervised by the District Commissioners and are run in accordance with standing instructions. Their annual estimates, like those of District Council Treasuries, are subject to the approval of the Governor.

Financial competence in Native Authorities and their staff is developing but their efficiency depends mainly on the efforts of District Commissioners. Conditions vary throughout the Protectorate and, as Native Authorities display different degrees of ability, so the degree of responsibility undertaken by them and the degree of control exercised by District Commissioners vary.

With the establishment of District Councils under the Local Government (District Councils) Ordinance, 1953, the Finance Committees of these Councils are assuming considerably greater responsibilities in the management of the financial affairs of their Councils.

There is an awakening, albeit gradual, of the less literate mass of the population to a realization that the Native Authority and District Council Treasuries are indeed their own, that they are in no way financed by Government and that the various local rates and taxes do not accrue to Government but to the local treasury for expenditure on local administration and development. Few villagers, however, have as yet any appreciation of the "share of tax" system or realize that it is not only Government but also their own treasury which benefits from tax collection; basically this is due to the fact that the average villager has little comprehension of a money economy. To him the Government, in the person of the District Commissioner, is the repository of all wealth. The impression is still widely held that the resources of Government are unlimited and that money is somehow forthcoming at will. The knowledge that the development of Native Administration must be firmly established on a sound financial basis is, however, slowly spreading among the Chiefs. In most cases they are undoubtedly beginning to seek new sources of revenue for their treasuries and their increasing efforts to ensure a full collection of fees due under Native Authority legislation are an encouraging sign.

The general principles governing the finances of District Council and Native Authority Treasuries are:—

(i) Reserve funds, not including funds held in special accounts for specific purposes, should be not less than 30 per cent. of normal annual revenue.

(ii) A 10 per cent. margin between recurrent revenue and recurrent expenditure should be maintained.

(iii) New services and capital works should not be undertaken unless it is clear that future recurrent costs can be met.

(iv) The allocation of expenditure between personal emoluments and other charges, i.e., services, must be guided by the principle that increases in the former must not be at the expense of existing services and that expenditure should, as far as possible, be devoted to improving and developing the services provided by local government.

The revenue of District Council and Native Authority Treasuries in 1956 was derived from the following main sources:—

(i) A share of tax paid by Africans under the Native Tax Ordinance. The share is 9s out of each 17s-6d tax. Estimated revenue from this source was £276,865.

(ii) Court fees and fines, which were estimated to produce £54,430.

(iii) Fees derived from By-laws and Rules to control services, e.g., market, marriage registration, beer, fishing, canteen and dog licence fees, etc. The estimate of revenue from this source was £54,000.

(iv) 25 per cent. of rentals on African trust land, of royalties on forest produce from African trust land and of cattle dipping fees, and 50 per cent. of the sale of ivory. Estimated revenue from this source was £14,647.

The total revised estimate of revenue of the Treasuries for 1956 was £475,406, of which the Provincial totals were:—

Northern Province	..	..	£58,998
Central Province	..	..	£174,854
Southern Province	..	..	£241,554

Expenditure by District Council and Native Authority Treasuries gives a good indication of the type of services undertaken by these Local Authorities. The main heads taken from the 1956 Estimates are:—

	<i>Heads</i>	<i>Expenditure</i> £
Administration (including Chiefs, Executives, Clerks, Messengers, etc.)		141,386
Land Usage (including Agricultural and Forestry Rangers, Crop Protection, Plantations and Nurseries Maintenance, Agricultural Shows, etc.)		14,763
Social Services (including Health and Sanitation, local authority educational institutions, mail carriers, community workers, etc.)		31,109
Works (including staff and maintenance charges for roads, bridges, ferries, etc.)		26,217
Water Supplies (including maintenance of wells and boreholes)		9,468
Markets		5,442
Transfers to Central Education Funds		148,921

The Native Authorities are responsible not only for the actual collection of African poll tax throughout the areas under their control but also for the compilation and maintenance of village assessment rolls, on which are entered the names and details of all males liable to pay tax together with a continuous record of annual payments. It is the legal duty of the village headman to keep the Native Authorities informed of any new settlers of taxable age in their areas and of young men in the villages who reach the apparent age of 18 years. Assessment rolls are also kept at District Headquarters, where statistics in respect of tax collection are compiled. The standard of tax collection has notably improved in recent years though it still leaves something to be desired, and the organization of drives for closer collection still springs in most cases from the District Commissioners rather than from the Native Authorities as does propaganda for the more accurate maintenance of assessment rolls. Some Native Authorities, however, have demonstrated their efficiency in these matters.

TOWN COUNCILS

Before this Chapter is concluded a word should be said about the financial affairs of the town councils of the Protectorate. Four such councils exist, at Blantyre/Limbe, Zomba, Lilongwe and Salima.

They are established under the Townships Ordinance and, save where they are exempted, as in the case of Blantyre/Limbe, from this requirement, submit annual estimates of revenue and expenditure for the Governor's approval. Revenue is derived mainly from general rates on land and buildings, sanitation fees and market fees, while the principal items of expenditure are salaries, road maintenance, vehicle maintenance, sanitation and market maintenance. Extraordinary expenditure usually covers such items as markets, purchase of lorries, water supplies and drainage. The Crown is not legally liable to pay rates but the principle is accepted that Government should pay *ex-gratia* grants in lieu of rates to town councils in respect of residential and administrative buildings and the land on which they stand, except in the case of those properties specifically exempted under the relevant legislation from the liability for rates (e.g., schools and hospitals).

During the financial year 1955/56, £30,000 was loaned by Government to town councils to enable them to undertake capital development works, and provision has been made in the 1956/57 financial year for further loans amounting to £44,500. The loan finance made available to the municipalities is largely devoted to such works as road construction, the construction of civic buildings, housing for municipal employees and amenities such as street lighting.

STATEMENT OF ASSETS

LIABILITIES				£	s	d	£	s	d	£	s	d
UNEXPENDED BALANCE OF LOAN FUNDS:												
Nyasaland Government share of Federal												
Borrowings 1955/56				..	..	..	..	..	..	330,309	4	0
Loan from Rhodesia Selection Trust				..	..	..	..	..	..	1,000,000	0	0
DEPOSITS												
C.D. and Welfare Grants (b)				..	..	..	140,591	17	9			
Agricultural Production and Marketing												
Board				..	..	..	492,791	5	8			
Other				..	..	..	207,485	18	10	840,869	2	3
SPECIAL FUNDS												
Administrator-General:												
Brown Trust				..	..	..	197,789	19	10			
Other Estates				..	..	..	13,082	17	0	210,872	16	10
Official Receiver				..	..	..				3,133	15	9
Bankruptcy Contingency Fund				..	..	..				54	9	11
Ewing Bequest Library Fund				..	..	..				814	13	2
Ruarwe Trust Fund				..	..	..				402	15	3
Native Development and Welfare Fund				..	..	..				1,007,956	7	10
Widows' and Orphans' Pension Scheme				..	..	..				203,591	11	5
Agricultural Production and Marketing Board:—												
Price Assistance Fund (A.T.B.)				..	..	..				512,292	11	10
Cotton Board Reserve Account				..	..	..				302,028	12	9
Stock Transfer Stamp Duty Fund				..	..	..				9,106	10	5
Education Fund				..	..	..				81,830	2	8
Customs Duty Fiscal Payment Fund				..	..	..				78,582	0	0
WAR SAVINGS CERTIFICATES				..	..	..						
RESERVE FOR DEVELOPMENT				..	..	..				7,065	15	0
GENERAL REVENUE BALANCE AT 1-7-1955				..	..	..				500,000	0	0
Add Surplus and Deficit Account				..	..	..				878,811	8	11
										146,577	16	4
										1,025,389	5	3
Less Depreciation of Investments				..	..	..				8,805	19	10
										1,016,583	5	5
CONTINGENT LIABILITIES:—												
IMPERIAL LOAN TO MEET 1914/18 WAR EXPENDITURE												
Local				..	..	..	£42,000	0	0			
War Office Loan				..	..	..	55,499	7	5			
							£97,499	7	5			
										£6,105,493	14	6

NOTE:—(a) Certain Investments in the Nyasaland Railways and the Trans-Zambesia Railway are held by the Crown Agents for Oversea Governments and Administrations in the name of the Nyasaland Government. These Investments are held by the Nyasaland Government on behalf of the Federal Government.

(b) At the 30th June, 1956, a sum of £15,047-16s-8d was due from Colonial Development and Welfare Act Funds.

AND LIABILITIES AT 30TH JUNE, 1956

ASSETS				£	s	d	£	s	d	£	s	d
CASH												
At Banks and with Sub-Accountants				..	..		764,865	2	11			
With Agencies	..	..	..	..	..		7,920	15	7			
In Transit	..	..	..	..	..		15,661	1	10			
With Joint Colonial Fund	..	..	..	..	..		979,000	0	0			
Imprests	..	..	..	..	..		3,800	0	0			
Cash on fixed Deposit	..	..	..	..	..		1,000,000	0	0	2,771,247	0	4
ADVANCES												
Personal	..	..	..	..	..		196,932	16	6			
Inter-Territorial	..	..	..	..	..		43,144	8	4			
Other	..	..	..	..	..		43,900	11	4	283,977	16	2
ADVANCES—LOAN EXPENDITURE	..			..	..		..	..		98,531	5	
INVESTMENTS:—												
On Account of Special Funds:—												
Administrator General:												
Brown Trust	..	..	..	198,726	19	10						
Other Estates	..	..	..	9,165	1	4	207,892	1	2			
Ewing Bequest Library Fund	..	..	..				814	13	2			
Ruarwe Trust Fund	..	..	..				402	1	7			
Native Development & Welfare Fund	..	..	..				1,019,537	15	10			
Widows' and Orphans' Pension Scheme	..	..	..				181,900	9	9			
Agricultural Production and Marketing Board:—												
Price Assistance Fund (A.T.B.)	..	..	..				512,292	11	10			
Cotton Board Reserve Account	..	..	..				302,028	12	9			
Stock Transfer Stamp Duty Fund	..	..	..				8,042	14	2			
On Account of General Revenue Balance	..	..	..				2,232,911	0	3	2,951,737	12	6
£6,105,493 14 6												

Chapter 4

Currency and Banking

ONLY notes and coin issued by the Central African Currency Board are legal tender in Nyasaland. The United Kingdom denominations are used, and the currency is at present exchangeable with United Kingdom currency at par.

Two commercial banks, the Standard Bank of South Africa and Barclays Bank, D.C.O., operate in the Protectorate. The former has four branches, at Blantyre, Zomba, Limbe and Lilongwe and two agencies at Cholo and Mlanje, and the latter, two branches at Blantyre and Limbe. Statistics for Nyasaland Banks are now included in the banking statistics for the Federal area as a whole.

No bank rate as such exists in the Protectorate; interest rates are guided by the prevailing Bank of England rate.

The rate of exchange for the transfer of money between the United Kingdom and Nyasaland as at 31st December, 1956, was as follows:—

Buying—London per £100 British				
Telegraphic transfer	..	..	..	£99-15s-0d
Airmail	..	..	..	£99-12s-0d
Surface mail	..	..	..	£99- 6s-0d
Selling—Telegraphic transfer and sight	..	..	..	£100- 5s-0d

Chapter 5

Commerce

THE Federal Government, in accordance with its responsibilities, has maintained statistics from 1st January, 1954, in respect of the Federation as a single entity. The full documentation of movements of goods between the three territories of the Federation is no longer maintained, and such figures as are available, in respect of Nyasaland trade only, take into account movements between Nyasaland and places outside the Federal area, i.e., movements over that portion of the Protectorate boundary which forms part of the boundary of the Federation.

Special arrangements were, however, made for the provision of such statistics as were available, and as the final figures for 1956 are not yet available the table on page 49, extracted from details provided by the Central African Statistical Office in respect of the nine months period from 1st January to 30th September, 1956, may be of interest.

The Federal Government has assumed responsibility for all Customs and Excise matters, though on account of Nyasaland's position, *vis-a-vis* the Congo Basin Treaties, it was not possible, except in regard to the degree of documentation, to permit any substantial relaxation of import and export formalities in respect of movements between the Protectorate and the other two territories of the Federation.

During 1956, a further 18 companies were incorporated in the Protectorate, bringing the total number of local companies on the register to 178 with a nominal capital of £5,170,433. In addition, 23 new companies incorporated outside Nyasaland were registered to carry on business inside the Protectorate.

The commercial activity of the community is to some extent reflected in the number of land transactions taking place, as many of these relate to the opening or transfer of trading plots. The number of such transactions in 1956 was 1,341, compared with 1,043 in 1955 and 978 in 1954.

Trade continued to be mainly in the hands of Europeans and Asians. The Africans are, however, becoming increasingly aware of the possibilities of participating in the commercial life of the Protectorate, particularly in the south, while in the north the co-operative movement, described in Chapter 6, does much to stimulate interest in commercial activities. It is estimated that approximately 7,000 Africans were engaged in trade during the year.

As stated in Chapter 2 of this Part of the Report, Nyasaland has Government representatives in Salisbury and Johannesburg, whose main duties are connected with migrant labour. The address of these officers are, respectively, Private Bag 196H, Salisbury, and P.O. Box 123, Jeppestown, Johannesburg. The Johannesburg office was transferred to its present address at the end of 1955. The office of the Nyasaland Commissioner in London closed in June, 1955, and its work was taken over by the office of the Federal High Commissioner in London, of which the address is 429 The Strand, London, W.C. 2. In Beira, the Union Castle Steamship Company and in Capetown, Thomas Cook and Sons act as agents to the Nyasaland Government in connection with shipping matters.

STATISTICS OF TRADE BETWEEN NYASALAND AND OTHER COUNTRIES OUTSIDE THE FEDERATION OF RHODESIA AND NYASALAND
Cumulative Statistics of Imports, Exports and Re-exports for the period from 1st January to 30th September, 1956

Class	I (a)	(b) (c)		Imports £	Domestic Exports £	Re-exports £
..	..	..	Animals, agricultural and pastoral products	..	..	..
"	I (d)	..	Foodstuffs	4,902	45,305	604
"	II (a)	..	Spirits, potable	477,198	3,884,844	42
"	III	..	Tobacco	39,861	—	25
"	IV	..	Fibres, yarns, textiles and apparel	681	2,121,996	4,797
"	V	..	Metals, metal manufactures, machinery and vehicles	1,947,301	5,612	1,258
"	VI	..	Minerals, earthenware, glassware and cement	2,148,825	11,553	30,515
"	VII	..	Oils, resin, waxes, paints and varnishes	107,596	—	21
"	VIII	..	Drugs, chemicals and fertilizers	509,471	80,432	465
"	IX	..	Leather, rubber and their manufactures	248,621	14,803	103
"	X	..	Wood, cane and their manufactures	267,708	—	149
"	XI	..	Books, paper and stationery	328,743	19	914
"	XII	..	Jewellery, timepieces, fancy goods and musical instruments	84,160	696	789
"	XIII	..	Miscellaneous	90,778	16	1,894
"		..		109,180	708	759
			TOTAL	£6,365,025	£6,165,984	£42,335

Chapter 6

Production

[In this Chapter, unless otherwise stated, weights are given in short tons.]

LAND UTILIZATION AND TENURE

THE land area of the Protectorate is 36,879 square miles and the water area 12,298 square miles. A description of the physiography and climate of Nyasaland is given in Part III, Chapter 1 of this Report.

The great bulk of the productive land is arable, largely under peasant cultivation, with small areas under tea, tobacco and tung. African-owned cattle are usually grazed in the bush adjacent to their owners' villages or on stream plains in the neighbourhood. Arable production comprises tobacco and tea as the principal economic crops and maize, cassava, rice, beans and groundnuts as the principal food crops, though some in this latter category are also grown as economic crops.

The Forest Estate, which comprises nearly one-twelfth of the Protectorate's land area, contains some species of rare and valuable softwoods, indigenous Mlanje Cedar (*Widdringtonia Whytei*) and a variety of useful hardwoods, but the timber resources are barely equal to the Protectorate's needs and large-scale afforestation is taking place.

There remain undeveloped areas of some size in the Protectorate, notably the Vipya and Nyika Plateaux in the Northern Province. The agricultural development of these areas depends on drainage and irrigation, the clearance of bush, the improvement of communications and the solution of other similar problems.

The 1945 census revealed a density of 55.51 to the square mile, with a range of 12.14 to 309.77 between districts, but in certain areas population densities of 800 to the square mile have been found to exist.

The classification of land utilization is tentatively estimated as follows, figures being very approximate:—

Arable land	..	..	..	10,000	square miles
Land for growing tree-crops, vines, shrubs, etc.	..	..	..	1,300	„ „
Permanent meadow and pasture	..	..	..	2,300	„ „
Wood or forest land	..	..	..	7,000	„ „
Other land	..	..	..	16,279	„ „
TOTAL LAND AREA				36,879	square miles

An important development in the sphere of land utilization and tenure was the setting-up during the year of a standing advisory committee, known as the Central Land Use Committee, to co-ordinate the formulation and carrying out of the policies of departments concerned with land use. Its membership comprises the Secretary for African Affairs as Chairman, the Lands Adviser as Secretary, the Director of Agriculture, the Director of Veterinary Services, the Conservator of Forests, the Director of Game, Fish and Tsetse Control, the Director of Water Development and the Development Secretary. Its terms of reference include advising the Governor on a co-ordinate policy in respect of land use matters with which the departments are concerned, and also advising him on the measures necessary to give effect to, and to co-ordinate the carrying out of, the accepted policy within the spheres of these departments. Two meetings were held during the year at which consideration was given to the Four-Year Development Plan, to the organization necessary for carrying out land settlement and reorganization schemes, to the action to be taken on the Tsetse Control Report and to the preparation of a land use policy for the Protectorate.

The Natural Resources Ordinance of 1949, as amended, provides for the setting up of Provincial and District Natural Resources Boards. The functions of Provincial Boards include the making of Orders for the conservation of natural resources, recommending to the Governor any legislation which they deem to be necessary for this purpose, the exercise of general supervision over all natural resources and the examination of all conservation proposals submitted to them by District Boards and executive officers. District Boards co-operate by formulating conservation schemes for submission to the Provincial Boards and undertaking conservation works and measures on the authority of the Provincial Boards. Both types of Board include in their membership European non-officials and prominent Africans.

A Provincial Board, if it considers that measures should be taken for the conservation of natural resources in any part of the Province, may order the owner or occupier of the land in question to undertake such measures. These Orders may relate to the use to which land may be put; the preservation and protection of stream banks, sources or courses; the preservation or restriction of cultivation; the methods of cultivation on any land; the control of water; the manner of watering, depasturing or moving stock; and the construction or maintenance of conservation works. Failure to comply with such Orders renders the owner or occupier guilty of an offence. Under section 20 of the Ordinance the Governor is empowered to make Rules of general application for similar purposes. Such Rules were enacted in 1952 and were applied during the same year to all three Provinces.

In the Northern Province, with its rather sparse population, only the first stage of physical soil conservation measures, that is, the protection of cultivated land by means of contour bunds, has so far been attempted. Despite the amount of bunding and propaganda so

far carried out in this Province, the traditional practice of shifting cultivation, necessitating marking and bunding of the new gardens, with the consequent waste of those conservation measures already taken in the old gardens, required constant attention and work. The construction of bench terraces has become popular in connection with the cultivation of coffee and has been accepted as normal practice throughout the Province.

The Northern Province Natural Resources Board was aware that considerable sheet erosion continued over vast areas of the Province, but considered the solution to lie in the control of bush fires and in the correct apportionment of non-cultivated land between grazing and forest usage. The Board, realizing in 1954 that, with the resources at its disposal, complete protection against fire of important catchment areas was impossible, inaugurated a policy of early protective patchwork burning (under licence from the Board) in areas where complete protection would be difficult to enforce. By this means less than half the land surface vegetation was burnt, as the burnt patches formed barriers against later fires. In 1954 this policy was applied to the grasslands of the Vipya and Nyika, where the results were sufficiently successful to warrant extending it to other areas in the Province, particularly the sparsely populated escarpment areas. The results obtained so far appear to have justified this modification in the no-burning policy. The Board directed most of its energies during the year to the protection and proper usage of unexploited resources. In order to combat under-population and to assist in the more favourable distribution of population and stock in areas suffering from a lack of natural amenities, the Board encouraged the building of small earth dams by communal effort for watering stock. In 1956, 12 such dams were constructed in the Northern Province. Two dams in the Central Province and one in the Southern Province were also built during the year. These 15 dams have a total capacity of some 20 million gallons. Ox teams were generally used in their construction:

In the Central Province, which is the richest agricultural area in the country, the population pressure is not so acute as in the South, but the widespread tobacco industry with its heavy demands on timber supplies, together with the relatively large cattle and small stock population, present problems virtually unknown in the South. In a region of wide rolling plains, crossed by only a few large rivers which rise near the Northern Rhodesia border and flow the width of the Province, dry season water supplies are a serious problem. The fertile loams of the Central Province are particularly liable to erosion and the system of tie-ridging was introduced in this area as long ago as the 'thirties.

The programme of physical conservation measures, involving the construction of graded bunds and protection of watercourses, continued during the year in all districts of the Province. Work also progressed on the construction of small earth dams during the year. A scheme for the protection of the upper Lilongwe River by extension of the Dzalanyama

Forest Reserve has been approved by the Provincial Board. The Board has also sponsored the formation of District cattle management committees in an endeavour to make the best use of grazing areas.

Schemes have also been sponsored to encourage tree growing by schools, to assist Native Authorities and villages in running village forest areas and in setting aside Forest Estates for management by Government staff.

In the Southern Province population pressure aggravated exploitation of the soil and vegetation. A large proportion of the cultivators cannot expect even to extract their subsistence from their holdings and, as a result, normally obtain employment for at least part of the year. Against this background the Provincial Board endeavoured, by means of physical conservation drives, to prevent further deterioration. Consideration was also given to a number of schemes for the reclamation and resettlement of public and under-cultivated African trust land.

The main conservation drives this year were in the Likangala catchment area of Zomba District and in the Lower Mombezi catchment area near Chiradzulu. Three soil conservation teams operated in the first area, where some 382 miles of graded bunds were completed, protecting an area of 2,258 acres. The Mechanical Soil Conservation Unit operated in the second area, as much of the necessary conservation work consisted of gully reclamation and the construction of waterways—work best done by mechanical means. A dam of approximately one and a half million gallons capacity was also constructed in the area by mechanical means. Altogether, 99 miles of bunds protecting 1,888 acres, $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles of waterways and over a mile of storm drains were completed in this area. The total number of miles of bunds completed in the Southern Province during 1956 was 1,098, resulting in the protection of 6,579 acres.

Approximately 3.6 per cent. of the total land area of the Protectorate is at present held in freehold by private land owners. Some 9.4 per cent. comprises the areas of townships and the land held by Government (including the areas of public institutions and State forests). The remaining land, approximately 87.0 per cent. of the whole, is African trust land, vested in the Secretary of State for the Colonies and administered by the Governor on his behalf for the common benefit, direct or indirect, of the African inhabitants of the Protectorate. Native Authorities may, however, subject to the directions of the Governor, authorize Africans to use and occupy African trust land within their respective areas in accordance with the native customary law prevailing therein. The Governor may grant leases of, or dispose of, other interests in African trust land, either to Africans or non-Africans, but before doing so he must consult the Native Authority of the area in which the land is situated and only with the approval of the Secretary of State may he grant an estate or interest greater than a lease for 99 years. The Governor may also make grants to search for

and work minerals on African trust land, following consultation with the Native Authority and having general regard to African interests. He may also acquire trust land for public purposes which are for the direct or indirect benefit of Africans, again after consultation with the Native Authority, compensation being paid where necessary.

The Nyasaland Protectorate (African Trust Land) Order in Council, 1950, defines "African trust land" and "public land". Provision for the disposal of public land is made in the Public Land Ordinance, empowering the Governor to make and execute grants and leases of public land for any purpose and on any terms he thinks fit.

The types of tenure on which land is held in the Protectorate are freehold (arising from Certificates of Claim granted by Government in the early days of the Protectorate), leasehold from the Government or private land owners and leases of African trust land, already described above. Africans occupy their land by customary tenure and in so far as over 75 per cent. of the African population is concerned, the principal features influencing the customary tenure of land are matrilineal inheritance, an uxorilocal system of marriage and the allocation of the land by the Village Headman.

The areas and types of holding are as follows; all figures are approximate:—

Unalienated African trust land	..	..	20,366,969 acres
Government, Townships, etc.	..	..	2,226,083 „
Freehold	..	..	838,451 „
Leasehold	..	..	171,057 „
TOTAL LAND AREA			<u>23,602,560 acres</u>

The position of Africans residing on private estates is governed by the Africans on Private Estates Ordinance.

As a result of the recommendations of the Abrahams Report and the Land Planning Committee, subsequently set up, some 300,000 acres of land were acquired between 1948 and 1954 by Government from estate-owners in the Southern Province for the resettlement of Africans living in other congested areas. Government has agreed to acquire a further acreage of approximately 116,000 acres and is also negotiating for a further 52,000 acres. It is estimated that some 24,000 families still remained on private land in the Southern Province at the end of the year, but it is hoped to resettle 17,000 of these families next year if the land acquisition negotiations prove successful.

The Lands Section of the Secretariat, which deals with town planning and mining as well as with matters affecting land generally, made considerable progress during the year in overcoming the back-log of work which had accumulated from the War years, the issue of documents of title receiving particular attention. The section also negotiated purchases of appreciable areas of privately-owned land for African resettlement, the areas acquired not being required by their original owners for future development. It also initiated action in

respect of the development and layout of a large acreage of public land, most of it in the Blantyre/Limbe area. The section, by arrangement, continued to advise on matters affecting the Federal Government's land requirements in the Protectorate. While the general administration of land falls to this section, a Lands Adviser was appointed in 1955 to advise Government, through the Secretary for African Affairs, upon policy regarding African tenure of land.

AGRICULTURE

The Agricultural Department's policy for the Protectorate continued to embrace the conservation of natural resources, on which all future agricultural prosperity must depend; the production of a sufficient and assured food supply of good quality to give the ever-growing African population a well-balanced diet; the development of a sound cash economy by means of increased production of better quality cash crops and livestock products; and the blending of these three objectives with sound systems of land use and farming in order to ensure stability and sustained production.

The 1955/56 season was characterized by light and poorly-distributed early rains, which delayed planting in many areas. The rains in the middle of the wet season were favourable, but the excessive late rains accompanying and subsequent to the cyclone "Edith" caused heavy flooding in some areas and had a detrimental effect on ripening crops.

The most notable event in the marketing field was the amalgamation of the Cotton Marketing, the African Tobacco and the Produce Marketing Boards into one organization—the Agricultural Production and Marketing Board. The prime object of this organization is to encourage the development of a sound, well-balanced agricultural industry on African trust land by providing a controlled, orderly, efficient and uniform system of marketing designed for, and to instil confidence in, the producer. The Board is responsible for the marketing of the principal crops grown, namely, tobacco, cotton, groundnuts and maize and it announces before the planting season begins guaranteed minimum prices for all crops except tobacco. In 1956 the Board paid to growers some £1,570,000 for 56,800 tons of produce in comparison with the £1,423,000 paid out in 1955 by the individual Boards for some 68,000 tons of produce.

A surplus of 33,577 tons of maize was purchased by the Agricultural Production and Marketing Board at a price of 1d per lb. during 1956. This tonnage was adequate to meet all internal needs and to provide a sufficient reserve in excess of 25,000 tons to meet any emergency in 1957. As soon as the 1956 crop was assured, the surplus from the 1955 harvest was exported, but had to be sold at a loss on world markets. To bring local prices more into line with world prices the minimum price guaranteed to the producer for the 1957 crop has been reduced to two-thirds of a penny per lb.

Increased interest is being taken by African farmers in the Southern Province in the production of sorghum in areas marginal for maize, and a surplus of 2,689 tons was sold to local merchants during the year. Eleusine and bulrush millets continued to be grown for local consumption only in certain areas.

Despite difficulties in sowing, harvesting and marketing caused by the excessive rains, a record surplus wheat crop of 706 tons was purchased by merchants at 3d per lb. The localities suitable for this crop are, however, strictly limited and no great expansion of production can take place except under large scale irrigation.

Surplus paddy production at 4,173 tons was on a reduced scale compared with the record figure of 7,202 tons produced in 1955 and was barely adequate to meet the requirements of the Federation for Grade I rice. In the South, erratic early rains, followed late in the season by severe flooding, reduced yields. In the North, the Karonga Lake-shore areas were subject to such heavy early flooding that only half the acreage normally planted could be established. Rather more favourable conditions were experienced in the Nkata Bay and Kota Kota Lake-shore areas. All marketing in main producing areas, except in the Mlanje District, is now handled by the Kota Kota Produce and Trading Society and by Co-operatives. The former Society was able to maintain a price of 2d per lb. for paddy to producers, but the Co-operatives had to reduce their price to 1½d per lb., which led to some dissatisfaction. All Grade I rice was sold within the Federation at a controlled price of £60 per ton and there was a good demand from South Africa for the lower grades of rice.

It is a major object of policy to increase the production of ground-nuts to the fullest possible extent because not only is this crop of nutritional importance to a people whose diet is dominated by maize, but it is also a valuable export crop. It has, moreover, a most beneficial effect on other crops following it in rotation. Overall production at 9,772 tons was very slightly less than in 1955. There was, however, a very welcome increase from 107 to 930 tons in the Northern Province. The surplus was purchased by the Agricultural Production and Marketing Board and the price to the grower was raised from the guaranteed minimum of 3½d per lb. to 4d per lb. The crop was sold on the world market at an average price of 98s-6d per bag of 180 lb. net f.o.r. Limbe, as against a price of 89s-6d per bag in 1955.

The Protectorate's tobacco crop totalled 34,503,257 lb. for all types of tobacco, an increase of 51 per cent. on the small crop produced in 1955. The breakdown of this total into various types of tobacco and the average prices obtained on the Auction Floors is as follows:—

TOBACCO SALES OVER THE LIMBE AUCTION FLOORS

			1955		1956	
			<i>Quantity sold (lb.)</i>	<i>Average price (d)</i>	<i>Quantity sold (lb.)</i>	<i>Average price (d)</i>
Fire-cured	..	..	14,781,752	19.21	..	25,426,032
Air-cured	..	..	2,323,794	20.81	..	2,680,100
Flue-cured	..	..	3,693,808	27.16	..	4,119,104
Burley	..	..	2,017,457	26.95	..	2,278,021
TOTALS	..	..	<u>22,816,811</u>	<u>21.35</u>		<u>34,503,257</u>
						<u>18.14</u>

A determined effort was made during the year to stimulate tobacco production in suitable areas of African trust land. This led to the number of growers increasing by 15 per cent. in fire-cured areas and by 18 per cent. in air-cured areas. The season was more favourable climatically than in 1955 and production on trust land increased by 81 per cent. in the case of fire-cured tobacco and 21 per cent. in the case of air-cured tobacco. In the main producing areas deficient early rains caused some delay in planting and prolonged wet weather at the end of the rains had an adverse effect on curing and the quality of leaf. Nevertheless, most growers received a satisfactory return for their labours. In the Northern Division (fire-cured) they sold 241 lb. of leaf per acre at an average price of 9.26d; in the Central Division (air-cured) 275 lb. per acre at 9.74d; and in the Southern Division (fire-cured) 226 lb. per acre at 7.61d.

Estate production of fire- and air-cured and Burley tobacco, which is mainly grown by African tenants on estates, showed increases in production over that of 1955 of 39 per cent., 11 per cent., and 13 per cent. respectively.

Flue-cured tobacco, with an increase in acreage planted of 21 per cent., showed an increase in production of 11 per cent. on the 1955 figure, but the yield per acre was only 500 lb. and much of the leaf sold was of low quality. Excessive rain in the latter part of January and the beginning of February had an adverse effect, particularly on the later plantings, which failed to mature and turned rank. This rank growth resulted in a leaf which turned out dull, harsh and shattery. The humid conditions favoured the spread of spot diseases, particularly *Frog Eye* and *Alternaria*, which were prevalent in the Southern Province. As a result of improved practices, particularly that of not planting the same land two years running, *Alternaria* disease in the Kasungu area was considerably reduced.

Trials in the growing of the Samsoun variety of Turkish tobacco were extended in the Mzimba District of the Northern Province to 90 selected growers. Only 22 acres were planted and some 6,075 lb. of leaf were marketed at an average price of 20.4d per lb. Considering the difficulties inherent in introducing a new crop, these results can be considered as reasonably satisfactory and it is certain that good quality leaf can be grown in this area.

All fire- and air-cured tobacco produced on African trust land was purchased from growers by the Agricultural Production and Marketing Board at its own markets and was subsequently regraded before being sold on the auction floor.

Climatically, the season was a good one for tea production and the crop of 20,654,537 lb. exported during the year was a record, exceeding that of 1955 by over 3 million lb. During the year the London Auction Floor prices for Nyasaland teas dropped from approximately 40d per lb. at the beginning of the year to slightly over 30d in August and September. These prices were rather lower than those obtaining during the corresponding period in 1955. Towards the end of the year, however, prices showed a steep rise to between 60d and 72d per lb. The acreage under tea showed a slight increase during the year and now stands at 26,186 acres, of which 23,737 acres are in bearing. Steady progress was maintained in replacing poor types of tea by higher yielding jats and this policy has obvious point in a country where the areas suitable for tea growing are limited. The general upward trend of tea production over the past few years is a sign of the vigour of the industry.

The demand for tung oil at a price attractive to producers continues to be uncertain, and, as a result many of the smaller producers are losing interest and production now rests largely in the hands of a dozen or so large concerns. The 1956 season was, on the whole, climatically favourable and some 867 long tons of oil were produced. The average price obtained was slightly over £160 per long ton, a slight improvement on the 1955 figure. The sharp increase in the price at the end of the year, no doubt due to the Middle East crisis, may benefit some of the later sales. As plantations mature and management improves, the existing acreage of approximately 19,000 acres should have a potential of some 2,000 tons of oil per year.

The 1955/56 season proved to be a disastrous one for cotton. Not only were the planting rains extremely unfavourable, but the subsequent prolonged wet weather made conditions ideal for the build-up of pests and diseases. In all summer-crop areas cotton stainer (*Dysdercus* spp.) and bacterial blight (*Xanthomonas malvacearum*) caused serious losses and in the Lake-shore summer-crop areas red bollworm (*Diparopsis castanea*) was also responsible for considerable damage. In the winter-crop area on the Karonga Lake-shore a potentially good crop was badly damaged by a plague of rats. The acreage under cotton dropped from 39,124 acres in 1955 to 26,422 acres in 1956 partly because of the poor planting rains and partly because growers became discouraged by the increasing damage caused by pests. Production fell from 9,579 tons of seed cotton in 1955 to only 3,435 tons in 1956, of which only 61 per cent. was Grade I. The whole of the African trust land crop was purchased by the Agricultural Production and Marketing Board and the prices paid to growers in summer-crop areas were 5d per lb. for Grade I seed cotton and 2d per lb. for Grade II.

At Karonga the price of Grade I was raised to 6d per lb. for seed cotton in view of the higher quality lint produced under winter-crop conditions.

With assistance from Colonial Development and Welfare funds, and in co-operation with the Federal Government, a team of entomologists was formed to study the cotton pest problems in Nyasaland and Southern Rhodesia. Unless a satisfactory answer can be found to control these pests, the future for cotton growing in Nyasaland is bleak.

There are now some 1,100 growers of *arabica* coffee in the North, the biggest concentration of growers being in the Misuku Hill area and the Rumpi District. A further 72,300 seedlings were issued for planting in 1956 and nurseries were sown to provide 200,000 seedlings in 1957. Of a total of some 166,000 established bushes approximately 21 per cent. were in bearing and yielded a crop of 21 tons, which was purchased by the Co-operative Societies. Although the Northern Province coffee areas are marginal, good coffee can be grown provided careful attention is given to site selection and preparation, the use of manure and fertilizer, mulching and other points of good husbandry. The great interest and attention to detail shown by the majority of growers is commendable. Trials with *robusta* coffee at lower altitudes have not been completely successful but experiments continued during the year.

Pulses and other minor crops are grown mainly for local consumption, but increasing surpluses are finding their way to markets in the Southern Province. There was a keen demand for pulses by merchants during the year and a record crop of 7,942 tons passed through Produce Markets. The purchase of the *phaseolus* type of bean was freed from control because export demand was such that merchants were prepared to pay considerably higher prices than the Agricultural Production and Marketing Board which bought only for local consumption.

With favourable planting conditions and sustained late rains, both cassava and sweet potatoes yielded well and provided useful diet supplements. In the Southern Province sweet potatoes are rapidly becoming an important cash crop in inter-African trade. Some 1,344 tons of dried cassava root were purchased during the year by merchants for export. Production of English potatoes in the Dedza Highlands and in the Ncheu and Neno areas of the Kirk range was maintained at a level high enough to meet local requirements and some 908 tons passed through Produce Markets.

Production of bananas increased in the Cholo area during the year. It appears likely that future supplies will exceed the local demand and the possibility of exporting the surplus to Southern Rhodesia is now being examined. The Association of African Vegetable and Fruit Growers in the Mwera Hill area continued to expand and had a turnover of £2,432 in 1956 as compared with £2,000 in 1955. Deliveries of

granadillas from Cholo growers to the Blantyre juice-expressing plant, which opened early in the year, greatly exceeded expectation, amounting to 164 short tons from which just under 8,000 gallons of juice were produced.

The extension services of the Department of Agriculture have as their aim the fulfilment of the agricultural policy outlined at the beginning of this section. The immediate objectives are the conservation of natural resources, the stage-by-stage improvement of the general level of peasant agriculture, the advancement of selected promising individuals to a high standard of conservation farming, and the reorganization of village lands on a consolidated pattern to facilitate better land usage. Adequate technical knowledge is essential for the implementation of this policy and steady progress has been maintained by the research and experimental services in providing this knowledge. Nevertheless, the rate of progress in improving agricultural techniques depends to a very great extent upon the cultivators understanding and appreciating the reasons behind the methods advocated and all possible steps are being taken to bring this about.

The timely preservation of the natural resources of the Protectorate is of vital concern and policy aims primarily at protecting watersheds and escarpment areas; preventing by physical means soil loss from arable lands; preventing the desecration of land by such factors as overgrazing and indiscriminate burning; and also at replacing destructive practices by sound land use and management.

The physical protection of the soil by means of contour or graded bunds made satisfactory progress during 1956 with the construction of 6,735 miles of bunds, protecting approximately 69,000 acres of land. During the past eight years some 750,000 acres of African trust land and public land have been so protected. Wherever possible the design and lay-out of conservation works is planned to provide a framework for the eventual reorganization of village lands and holdings on a sound, permanent basis. On private estates a further 318 miles of bunds, protecting 2,000 acres, were marked.

With the main object of improving water supplies for livestock, a further 14 dams, impounding close on 20 million gallons, were constructed during the year in the Central and Northern Provinces by means of ox-drawn scoops.

Land use surveys are an essential preliminary to the sound planning of agricultural development. Surveys of this type carried out during 1956 included one over 400 square miles in the Lunzu/Lirangwe catchment area for settlement purposes; one in the Balaka area for organizing settlement as a barrier against tsetse fly invasion; one on 20,000 acres on the Palombe/Chilwa plain and another on 5,000 acres on the Ngerenge plain, both for examination of irrigation potential; and one on over 120,000 acres of the Elephant Marsh area

for assessing land reclamation possibilities. In addition, detailed land use planning was carried out on three estates in the Southern Province; a preliminary survey was also made on tobacco estates in the Kasungu area.

Overgrazing of *dambo* areas in the Central Province, resulting from the increased population's full use of dry land areas for cultivation, is presenting a most serious problem. Such overgrazing has resulted in compaction of the soil, deterioration of the sward, bush encroachment and gully formation. Full investigation of the problem is being undertaken and reclamation work has already commenced.

The Master Farmer Scheme continued to make satisfactory progress. Ten First Class and 170 Second Class Farmers, cultivating between them over 3,000 acres of land to a high standard, qualified during the year for bonus payments amounting to £3,000. Under the scheme any *bona fide* African farmer prepared to follow an exacting standard of good husbandry qualifies for a bonus on his improved acreage for the three years' development period. The continued success of the scheme will depend on cultivators being attracted by the higher economic returns resulting from the use of improved techniques. An agro-economic survey of a proportion of these farmers has been started.

Other subsidy schemes aimed at promoting better farming practices are those involving the sale of subsidized farm-carts, fertilizers and the pise-moulds used in the construction of tobacco barns. The demand for farm-carts, which are essential if full use is to be made of animal manure, continued and 383 carts were sold during the year. Increasing use is being made of artificial fertilizers by African tobacco-growers and 147 tons of sulphate of ammonia was sold to them in 1956. The urgent need for more barns for the efficient curing of dark-fired tobacco is being met by the sale of pise-moulds. Over 4,200 such moulds were sold during the year and this service has promoted the construction of a large number of new barns, 25,000 being built in the Lilongwe District alone.

The Land and Agricultural Loans Board set up by Government in 1955 granted a further 13 loans in 1956 totalling £16,950. Total payments on subsidy schemes covering water conservation and boreholes, fencing and livestock improvement amounted to £1,580. A few minor amendments were made to the regulations governing the granting of these subsidies and a new pamphlet was issued on the subject.

Initially limited but none the less important progress was made in implementing the Village Land Improvement Schemes, which aim to substitute over a larger unit than the individual holding a simple but orderly system of agriculture and land use in place of disorderly and destructive practices. The first step is to gain the interest, confidence and support of an enlightened village headman and the more progressive members of his village for the reorganization of a section of the

village lands on the basis of consolidated individual holdings with planned group rotation. This section forms the nucleus around which future extension takes place to embrace eventually the entire village unit. There are now 18 such schemes in various stages of development. They cover 315 families and over 2,000 acres of land.

The Southern Province tractor pool of six Ferguson tractors equipped with cultivation machinery and trailers continued to operate a contract service based on Ngabu in the Chikwawa District. Owing to the very poor cotton crop and the resultant shortage of money in the District, the demand for haulage, ploughing and ridging was considerably less than that of the previous year. It is becoming evident that African agriculture in Nyasaland is not yet ready for the introduction of mechanization on any scale. Apart from the difficulties experienced in operating agricultural machinery in isolated areas under primitive conditions, the returns obtained at present from the land are generally insufficient to meet the high cost of mechanical operation. In a highly-organized farming community the use of mechanical equipment enables a farmer to use the time thus saved for other profitable occupations. The African agriculturist in Nyasaland has not yet reached this stage of development.

The mechanical soil conservation unit continued to take part in the soil conservation scheme in the Lower Mombezi catchment area. It was utilized for the construction of over $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles of waterways, 1 mile of storm drains, 70 miles of contour bunds and for the reclamation of gullys.

The opening of the Colby School of Agriculture and Veterinary Science in April, 1956, marked the beginning of a new era in agricultural education in Nyasaland. There is accommodation for up to 120 students. The school is mainly concerned with the training of African field staff of the Agricultural and Veterinary Departments on a one year course, the best Agricultural Instructors on a two years' advanced course, Prison Farm Instructors on a three months' course and student teachers on an intensive six weeks' course. In addition, the school will also cater for Chiefs, villagers and Master Farmers attending short courses of one week's duration. Forty-five Agricultural and eight Veterinary students were in training during the year on the one year course and ten Agricultural Instructors commenced the advanced course. The first intensive training course for student teachers was held towards the end of the year.

The Farm School at Tuchila in the Southern Province held short instructional and visual courses for 972 Chiefs, villagers and Master Farmers and also held refresher courses for 60 Teachers and 56 Agricultural Instructors. Similar Farm Schools were also started at Mbawa in the Northern Province and at the Colby School in the Central Province; they held a limited number of courses for 119 and 10 persons, respectively.

A number of special courses were also arranged at various centres, including a course for 120 coffee-growers at Nchenachena in the Northern Province and others for growers of Turkish tobacco in the Mzimba District, as well as those held prior to the start of a campaign for Chiefs and cultivators living in special conservation areas. Visits were also arranged to Experiment Stations and projects such as the Village Land Improvement Schemes.

In addition to the tobacco and cotton propaganda films already in circulation, a film concerning the Master Farmer Scheme was produced in co-operation with the Central African Film Unit. Two further films are planned, one on soil conservation and the other on bush-fire control. Increasing use was made during the year of the Press and of leaflets and posters for propaganda purposes.

Research and experimentation in connection with tobacco and soil fertility problems, as well as investigations concerning pasture and general crops, continued to be conducted at the Agricultural Research Station near Lilongwe and also at the sub-stations of Tuchila in the Southern Province, Chitala in the Central Province and Mbawa in the Northern Province.

The Tea Experiment Station at Mlanje obtained valuable results from a series of establishment experiments. Investigations were also commenced into vegetative propagation and selection, soil moisture and chemical weed-control.

The Bvumbwe Tung and Agricultural Experiment Station continued investigations into problems concerning tung, mixed farming, deciduous fruits and coffee.

The Empire Cotton Growing Corporation moved its headquarters to the Makanga Experimental Station which is situated in the main cotton-growing area of the Lower River. Irrigation trials were started there during the year.

The Lisasadzi Station at Kasungu was converted into a demonstration flue-cured tobacco farm during the year. A number of small subsidiary stations, such as the Coffee Station at Nchenachena, carried out investigations into particular crops and problems.

The Department's experimentation programme has already produced much original and valuable information concerning crop varieties, fertilizer treatments and the manner in which the main crops should be grown. A programme of maize and cotton breeding undertaken during the year is expected to result in the evolution of improved varieties especially suitable for local conditions. The Department's long-term research programme, concerning systems of farming, is now beginning to yield results. It is, however, one thing to acquire the knowledge and another to persuade farmers to adopt the practices proved to be the best. The Tea and Tung Experiment Stations issue monthly advice bulletins to all interested farmers and regular field days are held on all the principal stations. The main stations are guided by Advisory Committees, the membership of which

includes prominent local farmers as well as the specialist officers concerned. Results of experiments and investigations are published in popular form in the *Nyasaland Farmer and Forester* and in detail in Part II of the Annual Report of the Department of Agriculture. In addition, an annual crop production policy is drawn up for the guidance of those interested in African trust land agriculture.

Two years' work and the preliminary trials undertaken have shown beyond doubt that rice can be grown successfully on the reclaimed swamps of the South Chilwa plain. The experiments so far conducted have given useful information concerning varieties, fertilizers, water requirements and the optimum time of planting. Soil and hydrological surveys have shown that there are areas suitable for large-scale rice production under water control, but that there is insufficient water for winter-cropping as well. The very high capital cost involved, however, makes it impracticable to consider implementing a major scheme for rice alone in this area at the present time.

Hunting Technical Services Ltd. carried out a soil survey over some 120,000 acres of the Elephant Marsh in the Lower Shire Valley. This survey was conducted in order to assess the potential of these marshlands should they be reclaimed. Preliminary results indicate that a high proportion of these soils would be suitable for a wide variety of crops and also that their fertility has not been impaired by their being inundated over the past twenty years. A site for a pilot reclamation scheme in the Marsh has been provisionally selected and work is due to start on the scheme in 1957.

The Nyasaland Agricultural Society held its annual show in Zomba at the end of May. The standard of the livestock exhibits was high, but, apart from tobacco and tea, the produce sections were not well supported. A few African farmers competed successfully. Eight African Agricultural Shows were also held during the year and were largely organized by African committees.

In 1956 the headquarters staff of the Department of Agriculture included the Director and the Deputy and Assistant Directors. The field staff, which is distributed on a Provincial basis, has an establishment of 4 Chief Agricultural Officers, 32 Agricultural Officers, 6 Principal Agricultural Supervisors, 52 Agricultural Supervisors, 2 Conservation Assistants, 3 Mechanical Supervisors, 3 Principal Agricultural Instructors, 291 Agricultural Instructors and 509 Assistant Agricultural Instructors. Research and Technical Officers, responsible to the Director of Agriculture, are stationed according to their duties. In addition to the Chief Agricultural Research Officer, research staff included 1 Research Officer, 1 Entomologist, 3 Entomologists (cotton pest research), 1 Botanist, 1 Plant Pathologist, 1 Ecologist, 2 Tea Research Officers, 3 Agricultural Chemists, 1 Assistant Chemist, 1 Laboratory Technician, 2 Principal Laboratory Assistants and 44 Laboratory Assistants and Recorders. The main posts vacant at the end of the year were those of 1 Research Officer, 8 Agricultural Officers, 1 Chemist and 5 Agricultural Supervisors.

WATER DEVELOPMENT

On the 1st July, 1956, the Water Development Branch, which had previously functioned as a section of the Department of Agriculture, became an independent Department.

This new Department is responsible for undertaking the study of the surface water resources of the Protectorate, for dealing with water licence applications and for advising on small dams and irrigation schemes. It is also to take over the Water Boring Section of the Department of Geological Survey. The staff position during the year prevented the Department from assuming executive responsibility for this section, which accordingly remained under the control of the Director of Geological Survey.

In September, 1956, the bund across the Shire River at Liwonde was completed and the flow of the river was stopped at that point. This enabled a study to be made of the river under low-flow conditions and facilitated the drainage of the Elephant Marsh for survey purposes; it also permitted drilling to take place at the site of the Matope barrage.

The Department prepared a number of maps of the Protectorate for its own use and for that of other Departments and the Directorate of Colonial Surveys.

During the year the Department operated 110 gauging stations, 19 measuring weirs, 5 automatic rain gauges, 8 automatic level recorders, 30 evaporation stations and 51 staff stations (where water level, but not flow, is recorded)—a total of 223 hydrological stations, which represents an increase of 29 over the previous year's figure.

A Leupold & Stevens Automatic Water Level Recorder was installed on the Songwe River during 1956. It was set to run for six months without attendance and, as the Songwe River is virtually inaccessible during the rains, the recorder should provide data otherwise unobtainable.

The silt survey was extended to cover the major portions of all Provinces, and maps were produced showing the river silt-loads expressed as tons per square mile of catchment area. In the case of the Cholo area it proved possible to do this in some detail.

A number of investigations were undertaken in respect of both large and small irrigation projects. In the Northern Province a number of individual Africans and also one community were advised by the Department during the year on the irrigation projects they wished to undertake.

There was an increase in the number of investigations made into dams and water supplies during the year. Many potential dam sites were considered and eight designs were prepared, one of which was for an African owner of freehold land. Wherever possible construction was supervised.

Between the 4th and 6th April a cyclone, which was given the meteorological name of "Edith", appeared off the East African coast, crossed Portuguese East Africa, where it caused considerable damage and loss of life, travelled across Nyasaland, and spent itself in Northern Rhodesia. The rains accompanying and following the cyclone were heavy and caused the worst flooding of the Ruo River in living memory. The Chiromo area of the Port Herald District suffered considerable damage from the floods and part of the Chiromo railway embankment was breached. However, staff of the Department were able to give advance warning of the cyclone to inhabitants of areas on its possible route and there was no loss of life.

The staff of the Department devoted a considerable amount of their time during the year to the collection and analysis of hydrological data, especially those for the Shire Valley Project.

VETERINARY AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

The extended rains of 1956 reduced the dry season considerably and no areas of drought were reported from any part of the Protectorate; both water supplies and grazing proved more than adequate. However, the abundant grass brought other dangers to the stock population, since it protected those parasites which spend an important part of their life cycle on the ground, and it was generally observed that ticks and tick-borne diseases were very prevalent during the year and that the rate of internal parasitism was high. Moreover, under primitive conditions of management, prolonged rains often cause severe stock losses, as animals are seldom dry and in the indigenous type of cattle *khola* it may be impossible for the cattle to lie down at night because of the depth of the mud. Herd boys are also reluctant to leave their huts during heavy rain and, in consequence, grazing hours become shortened.

The numbers of cattle as revealed by the annual census showed a slight increase in comparison with the previous year, a decrease in the Central Province being more than compensated for by increases in the other two Provinces. Considering the very great drain on the cattle population by the slaughter markets, it is remarkable that the population more than maintained its numbers. The sheep, goat, and pig populations also showed little variations in comparison with the previous year. There were undoubted losses amongst poultry due to the presence of Newcastle Disease, but such losses cannot be directly assessed because of the casual attitude of the African owners to their flocks, mortality only becoming evident from the shortage of eggs. It is notable that there has been an increase of over two hundred in the number of cattle kept by European farmers; this is indicative of the increasing capital investment being made by European farmers in better types of livestock. The following animals were imported during the year:—

Cattle:	..	..	3 Friesian bulls and 26 heifers, 4 Jersey bulls and 34 heifers, 2 Sussex bulls and 4 Africander bulls.
Sheep:	..	..	6 Black-headed Persians.
Pigs:	..	..	1 Large White Boar and 3 Gilts, 1 Landrace Gilt.
Horses:	..	..	15, mainly from the Union of South Africa.

The 1956 establishment of the Department was 612 employees of all grades. The Senior Staff establishment was increased by the post of an additional Veterinary Officer, but it did not prove possible to fill it during the year. Shortage of staff was the most severely felt in the Laboratory, as the two Research Officers resigned and could not be replaced before the end of the year. As a result, only a limited amount of research was undertaken by the Laboratory, but the diagnostic service was, however, maintained and a considerable amount of disease investigational work was carried out. The increase in the incidence of rabies placed a greater burden of diagnosis on the Laboratory than in previous years, 97 cases being confirmed by histological and biological means. The speed of diagnosis in those cases where Negri bodies are present is now improved by better histological techniques, so that a diagnosis in many cases can now be given within 24 hours. In all, 4,207 specimens were examined during the year.

Other investigations undertaken by the Laboratory resulted in the identification of conditions not previously recorded in the country including clostridial infections of sheep and pigs and bowel oedema of pigs.

As has already been mentioned, the unusually wet and humid conditions obtaining during the greater part of the year were extremely favourable to tick multiplication and, in consequence, the danger of infection from tick-borne disease was high. A relatively large number of cases of East Coast fever were diagnosed in the Central and Northern Provinces where the disease is endemic; it was encouraging that the number of cases from the dipped areas, however, remained small. One case of East Coast fever was diagnosed in the Blantyre quarantine area in an animal which had been brought down from the Central Province for slaughter. The animal was destroyed immediately and there was no spread of infection.

Although there were no cases of East Coast fever in the Southern Province, many of the other tick-borne diseases, such as redwater and heartwater, were prevalent and a large number of animals were treated for both conditions. Cerebral piroplasmiasis was diagnosed histologically on a number of occasions and non-specific Theilerial organisms were also recorded during routine blood-smear examinations.

Two steel dipping-tanks, each of different construction, were installed in the Southern Province and proved to be most valuable when used in isolated areas where transport is expensive and where skilled technical assistance for concrete work is not available. A wider scheme involving the installation of some 43 steel tanks, as well as ancillary works, was approved during the year and materials were accumulated to enable a start to be made early next year.

Trypanosomiasis among cattle herded on the edges of the tsetse belts is still a problem and there are indications that the disease may be mechanically transmitted in some areas, notably in the Lower River. Treatment continued on the lines laid down in previous years, the drug of choice being dimidium bromide and the policy being that of injecting incontact stock as well as that proved microscopically to be infected. Mortality was extremely low in the Lower River; only 19 animals were recorded as having died of the disease, although 3,152 cases were treated. There was an exacerbation of infection following the serious flooding which occurred early in the year in this area. It is not clear why this was so but it may well have been due to the animals having been concentrated by the rising waters near the fly belts, thus rendering them more liable to infection. An increase in the number of cases of trypanosomiasis was also noted in the Yembe Hill area of Karonga District, although prompt treatment ensured a low mortality. The majority of cases diagnosed were caused by *T. vivax*, although a number of cases of *T. congolense* were recorded; four cases of *T. brucei* in dogs were also noted.

Rabies remained the animal disease in greatest public notice in the Protectorate. Not only did the number of cases diagnosed microscopically and biologically increase, but there were also a number of incidents when people were bitten by rabid dogs. In all, 97 cases were diagnosed in the Laboratory, a considerably higher total than has ever been recorded before, the previous highest being 63 in 1953. It became necessary to proclaim the whole of the Central Province an infected area and vigorous steps were taken to reduce the numbers of stray dogs. In all, 5,081 dogs were destroyed in the Central Province and 1,579 in the Southern Province. Although this destruction limited active outbreaks, it had little effect on the total dog population and on the spread of the disease. The regulation whereby dogs in townships have to be vaccinated against rabies before they can be licensed remained in force and was generally effective in protecting township animals. There were, however, some instances of young animals becoming infected before they had been inoculated. In all, 1,937 animals were immunized in townships. A number of cattle were also inoculated with the bovine rabies vaccine.

The private practice system, whereby the services of Government Officers are made available to the public for the treatment of farm and pet animals against a charge approved by Government, continued. The number of cases so treated showed an increase over last year and Veterinary Officers, particularly in Blantyre and Zomba, devoted an increasing amount of time to this service. The considerable increase in the number of horses in the country threw an additional burden upon these officers. In all, 6,296 attendances were made on farm and pet animals during the year.

As has already been mentioned, outbreaks of Newcastle disease in poultry were widespread throughout the country and, although it was possible to protect commercial flocks, it proved impossible to extend

vaccination to all casually-maintained poultry. The result was that there were local shortages of eggs from indigenous birds during the year. The disease caused a considerable reduction in the numbers of poultry in the Mzimba and Rumpi Districts and attempts to protect the birds by the use of vaccine were only partially successful, owing to the difficulty in obtaining adequate coverage.

Development at the three Livestock Improvement Centres continued during the year and the individual herds were progressively improved and increased. At Mikolongwe in the Southern Province the herd of Friesians maintained their condition and milk-yield, while the Jersey herd was increased by the purchase of heifers. The indigenous herd of Angoni cattle, reduced in numbers by the drastic culling which followed the diagnosis of tuberculosis amongst the herd in 1955, is being built up gradually to its former strength. The main work of the Centre was that of attempting to improve the grazing and the fertility of the soil. At Chitedze in the Central Province the indigenous herd of Nyasa stock continued to thrive, the numbers increasing by 70 during the year; 50 of these were born at the Centre. Only one death occurred and that was of a calf which died within a few hours of birth. The herd of Angoni cattle at Mbawa also did well, although there was only a small rise in overall numbers, due to the culling of tuberculin reactors. Work at Mbawa included the erection of new farm buildings, the building of staff quarters, and the fencing and establishment of pastures.

The second course of students completed its training during the year at Mbawa and Mikolongwe; recruiting started for the third course. Although the number of trained students reaching the field has been very small so far in proportion to the total number of Veterinary Assistants employed in the Department, their influence has already been felt. The general rise in the educational standard of boys leaving school is reflected in the improved quality of student-intakes in recent years. In addition to the training of Veterinary Assistants, a short practical course and examination was carried out at Mikolongwe for experienced African Officers in order to select personnel for training as Instructors and for the more senior supervisory posts.

The first poultry breeding scheme was implemented during the year, and despite the absence of the Poultry Officer on leave during the latter part of the year and the necessity to curtail the breeding programme, the return in revenue amounted to £1,425. During the next hatching season it is proposed to produce chicks for distribution in African areas. Some 5,000 day-old chicks were distributed to poultry farmers during the year.

The cattle *khola* improvement scheme continued during 1956. In the areas where it has been in operation there has been a marked drop in calf mortality. The aim is to provide weather-proof *kholas* with impervious floors where stock can lie at night under warm and dry conditions. Wherever possible, wooden or, preferably, brick *kholas* are built; in areas where timber or bricks are in short supply or where

cattle-owners lack the skills needed in erecting such structures, three-quarter acre wire enclosures are constructed. These are easily moved, thus allowing the cattle-owner to plant crops on the plot previously manured by his beasts. The enclosure is large enough to prevent puddling and also gives the stock room enough to evade the smaller predators. In all, five brick, 263 wooden and 170 wire *kholas* were built during the year. In some areas of the Central Province cattle-owners hedge their stock paddocks; during 1956 they laid out 952 *mlungudzi* thorn- and sisal-demarcated paddocks.

Livestock subsidy and bounty schemes were in operation during the year on the lines of similar schemes which have been operating in Northern Rhodesia for some time. Subsidies are paid on good quality breeding stock imported into the country or purchased within it, subject to the approval of the Livestock Subsidies Board. Good cattle production bounties are also awarded for yearling stock reared under good conditions of management. The schemes are administered by the Veterinary Department and inspections for the purpose of assisting the Livestock Subsidies Board to reach its decisions are carried out by Departmental Officers. The Board consists of the Director of Veterinary Services as Chairman, two non-official members who have an interest in cattle management and the Director of Agriculture.

Nearly all the stock imported into the country during the year were routed through the Department and obtained through the scheme whereby assistance in selection of stock, transport and habilitation is given to prospective owners. The scheme is self-financing as all items of expenditure are refunded by the cattle buyers. Most of the purchasers were subsequently granted a subsidy by the Livestock Subsidies Board.

During the year the Department imported a further 300 donkeys as an extension of the existing scheme to promote the use of this hardy and economical working animal in African areas. The donkeys were obtained in Southern Rhodesia and railed to Limbe. They will be trained to carry loads or to pull small carts and will eventually be sold to African farmers. The scheme has proved very popular and the uses to which this animal can be put to replace the very much more expensive ox are becoming appreciated. The transport teams of donkeys organized in previous years performed sterling service during the year, particularly on the Karonga Lake-shore where the prevailing rainy conditions made the transport of equipment by any other means almost impossible. The team at Karonga was borrowed at various times by nearly every officer on the station undertaking *ulendo* (touring).

The meat shortage remained acute despite the marked increase in the number of animals slaughtered. Some 60 per cent. of the stock slaughtered in the Southern markets originated from the Central Province and it is hardly surprising that, with this constant drain, the numbers of cattle in that Province declined slightly even though 1956 was a good breeding year. Cattle supplies from Portuguese East Africa were again restricted, and only some 273 animals were obtained from

this source. The numbers of animals slaughtered have shown a steady increase over the past few years and it is evident that, as living standards improve with the development of the country, the gap between available supplies and demand will widen. At the moment a considerable quantity of better-quality meat is being imported from Southern Rhodesia by air for sale to the higher income groups. This supply amounted to 6.1 per cent. of the total consumption of meat in the Southern Province during the year.

Encouragement was given to traders to obtain cattle in the Northern Province and to trek them down the stock route to the railhead at Salima in the Central Province, where they could be railed to Blantyre. Although a number of animals were moved in this manner, they formed an insignificant proportion of the total slaughtered. Little assistance from this source of supply can be expected until more effective control of ticks and tick-borne diseases follows from the carrying out of a dipping scheme in the Mzimba District.

The policy of centralizing the slaughter of animals in rural areas continued with the building of slaughter-slabs equipped with pulley-blocks and hoisting-bars. Each slaughter-slab is provided with a humane killer, and emphasis is laid upon its use in order to avoid unnecessary cruelty. In general, it was found that butchers were very willing to call in the local Veterinary Assistant to shoot their animals for them.

Few shortages were experienced in the supply of dairy products which were increased by the year's high rainfall. The supply of high-grade milk to the Southern townships was fully up to demand and there was some local overproduction. The more casual African supply to centres in the Northern and Central Provinces remained inadequate and subject to the vagaries of the vendors. At the Chileka dipping tank a demonstration paddock and dairy suitable for the use of African milk producers were erected. There was, as a result, a noticeable improvement in milk supplies from this area. The Department continued to produce the greater proportion of butter consumed in the Northern Province and to maintain adequate supplies.

The hides and skins trade exported 19,060 hides, 25,292 skins and a variety of game hides to Southern Rhodesia. This represents a reduction on the exports for 1955 of 2,473 units and probably reflects the results of price reductions which the exporting firms effected at the beginning of the year. The Territorial Advisory Committee on Hides and Skins met on three occasions during the year and proved of value in providing a forum for the discussion of difficulties arising between the producer and the trader.

FORESTRY

The main features of the Protectorate's Forest Policy include the permanent reservation by Government of an adequate area of forest as the country's Forest Estate; the management of forests on the

basis of a sustained yield; and the improvement of forests, which includes the planting of a sufficient acreage of both indigenous and exotic species to enable the country to become self-supporting in timber.

The Forest Estate, already permanently set aside, comprises 3,114 square miles out of an estimated total area of forest and woodland of some 7,000 square miles. Completion of the formation of the Forest Estate therefore constitutes a considerable task for the Department, but also one which it is hoped will be achieved within a reasonable period of time.

Proposals were put forward during the year for the constitution of a Secondary Forest Estate, comprising Local Government Forests, to supplement the State Forests and to form sources for the supply of forest products required by the local population.

Only one new Forest Reserve was gazetted during the year, namely, Kalwe in the Nkata Bay District, but the number of new proposals for reservation is now ten. These have an aggregate area of 311 square miles, of which 131 square miles are intended for softwood afforestation.

Proper management of the forests when constituted is a matter of great importance. The object is to introduce planned management throughout the Forest Estate and for this purpose Working Plans are essential. During the course of the year three Working Plans covering 40.09 square miles were produced and brought into force, the total at the end of the year being six Working Plans covering 63.24 square miles.

Intensive forest management requires adequate surveys, and during the year further progress was made in this direction. In continuation of the air-survey begun in 1955, two additional forests, Chongoni and Nchisi, both in the Central Province, were photographed, but unfavourable weather conditions caused the photography of the important afforestation areas on the Vipya in the Northern Province to be postponed until 1957. The contour maps of the forests in the Southern Province which were photographed in 1955 are expected to become available in the near future. This survey work is financed by a grant from Colonial Development and Welfare funds.

Considerable progress was also made in ground surveys by the Department during the year. The detailed survey of the plantations on Zomba plateau was completed and an accurate map produced for stock-mapping purposes. In the Central Province 200 miles of the boundary of the Dzalanyama Forest were surveyed by compass and chain.

One of the biggest problems confronting the Department is that of the provision of adequate accommodation for its staff within the forests; another is the provision of roads for purposes of both access to,

and extraction of, produce. Further progress was made during the year when 29 permanent buildings were constructed, but it will take a number of years to complete the building programme. One of the difficulties which the Department has to face is that much of its work lies in places remote from the main centres of population. Construction work has often therefore to be carried out by the Department itself in addition to its technical duties. 34.89 miles of road works were completed during the year. The plantations at Limbe, Zomba, Dedza and Chikangawa now have an extensive road-system, but at Dedza a considerable mileage remains to be constructed before the plantations are readily accessible for the extraction of produce. The Department's immediate aim is to open up adequate communications in all existing plantations, and at the same time to provide a proper road network in all new areas to be planted. The long-term aim is to provide a road system in all forests throughout the country; this will necessitate work in the indigenous forests where only a limited mileage has so far been constructed.

Forests were well protected from fire and while 27 outbreaks were reported, damage in both plantations and natural forests was negligible. The actual acreage of plantations burnt was only six acres and the majority of these trees were scorched and not destroyed. It is no exaggeration to say that this success is entirely due to the fire-control system which has been introduced by the Department during recent years. All outbreaks were promptly spotted by the fire-lookouts and, in most cases, communicated by telephone to the nearest station, so that it was possible to extinguish them before they could spread and do serious damage.

Measures used by the Department in fire-control include lookout towers, telephones, and warning sirens, together with a system of roads and fire-breaks. Fire-fighters are transported to the scene of the fire wherever possible by vehicle; they use portable water-pumps and fire-beaters to put out the flames. A standard type of wire-netting fire-beater introduced during the year proved to be an easily-handled and most effective weapon. For the first time the opening of fire-breaks was done by mechanical means using a Howard Rotavator.

Apart from plantations, a large area of indigenous forest and grassland was successfully protected from fire; for this purpose an extensive mileage of hoed fire-breaks was made and the number of fire-patrols increased. Where it was not possible to afford complete protection, early-burning was carried out; this operation when properly controlled is a most effective method of avoiding damage by late fires.

A statement of Departmental Fire Policy was published during the year. It incorporates the two basic precepts of forest fire control, namely, total protection and controlled burning. Total protection from fire is aimed at where it is known to be practicable and where the

means of detection and extinguishing fires exist. In all areas where complete protection is impracticable, controlled early burning is carried out. In regard to lands other than the Forest Estate the Department acts in an advisory capacity.

Satisfactory afforestation progress was made in 1956, despite the abnormally dry weather in January. Weather conditions for the rest of the year were generally favourable for planting, particularly in November and December, when planting for the 1957 season commenced. A total of 2,302 acres was planted, of which 2,190 acres represent afforestation of new areas and 112 acres represent planting of experimental plots. The total area of Government plantations at the end of the year was 15,834 acres.

Preparatory work was commenced on the Lusangadzi Forest, a new afforestation unit near Mzuzu in the Northern Province. There are now nine softwood afforestation units in the Protectorate. It is intended to grow eucalyptus species and conifers at Lusangadzi.

Interesting results are being obtained from the numerous experimental plantations established by the Department in recent years. At Chikangawa Forest on the Vipya a trial planting of *Hagenia abyssinica*, an indigenous tree from the high altitude forests of the Nyika, is showing very rapid growth.

At Cholomwani Forest in Cholo District a plot of Hoop Pine (*Araucaria cunninghamii*), has been successfully established, while at Massenjere Forest, below the Cholo escarpment, the growth of Teak (*Tectona grandis*), is extremely promising. Amongst the trials initiated a few years ago, the development of certain species of Eucalyptus, notably *E. maidenii*, planted in the Mtangatanga Forest near Mzimba in 1950, is of considerable interest, in view of the general difficulty of growing eucalypts in certain areas of the Northern Province. Further trial plots of eucalypts were established during the year in this forest on similar soil types, the ground being cultivated with the Howard Rotavator.

Two representatives of the Lion Match Company, Durban, visited Nyasaland during the year in connection with the experimental work now in progress on *Populus deltoides*.

A Sylviculturist joined the Department in August, after a course of instruction at the Imperial Forestry Institute, Oxford. He spent the remainder of the year visiting the forests in each Province before formulating a detailed programme of research work.

Work is progressing on the site of the permanent Research Station in the Chongoni Forest near Dedza, and in the meantime a start has been made in organizing office facilities, an herbarium and a research library in temporary quarters at Dedza.

Nyasaland was represented at the congress of the International Union of Forest Research Organization held at Oxford in June, 1956, by the Sylviculturist and by an Assistant Conservator of Forests, who also attended the Food and Agriculture Organization's Eucalyptus Conference, which was held at Rome in October, 1956.

Progress was made in developing the Department's sawmill and timber depot at Blantyre during the year. The sites for the seasoning kilns and timber storage were levelled and a new railway siding constructed. Two-thirds of the main mill shed were completed and the machinery installed, but there was an unexpected delay in the arrival of a consignment of timber connectors from the United Kingdom and the construction of the remaining trusses was held up. These were completed by the end of the year, however, and the shed will be finished early in 1957. It is believed that this is the only building of its kind in the Federation. In addition to the mill shed, the sawdoctor's shop also neared completion by the end of the year.

The temporary sawmill was in operation throughout the year, and the amount of timber dealt with was:—

Softwood logs	..	48,409 cubic feet
Hardwood logs	..	19,146 cubic feet

The timber impregnation plant was also in operation throughout the year, and the amount of material treated was:—

<i>Type of Produce</i>		<i>Tanalith Volume cu. ft.</i>	<i>Number of Poles</i>	<i>Creosote Volume cu. ft.</i>	<i>Number of Poles</i>	<i>Value of Sales</i>		
						£	s	d
Sawn Softwood	..	6,132	—	2,119	—	830	14	6
Hardwood Poles	..	—°	—	26,317	4,104	5,924	2	11
TOTAL		6,132	—	28,436	4,104	6,754	17	5

The following figures show the approximate out-turn of various classes of forest produce controlled under Government Licence during the year:—

Class of Produce		Forest Reserves cu. ft.	African trust land cu. ft.		Total cu. ft.
Softwood timber	..	123,324	..	—	123,324
Hardwood timber	..	19,803	..	298,187	317,990
Roundwood	..	58,942	..	95,917	154,859
Firewood	..	881,211	..	2,348,666	3,229,877
		<u>1,083,280</u>		<u>2,742,770</u>	<u>3,826,050</u>

Revenue from the sale of produce from Forest Reserves was £21,334, and from African trust land £27,966. Total revenue was £49,300.

Work was begun in October by the Department on the buildings for the Forest School and Research Station at Chongoni near Dedza. The two staff houses begun by the Public Works Department in 1955 were completed, and by mid-year considerable work had been done on the construction of main access roads and the clearing of sites for school buildings and staff and students' quarters. An Assistant Conservator of Forests was posted to Dedza as Instructor early in the year and took charge of all work in connection with the planning, building, and organization of the school. By the end of the year recruitment of suitably-educated students had met with a most encouraging response.

The authorized establishment of the Department at the end of the year was as follows:—

Conservator of Forests, Deputy Conservator of Forests, Secretary, Sylviculturist, Working Plans Officer, Utilization Officer, Instructor.

Eleven Assistant Conservators, 2 Principal Forest Assistants, 17 Forest Assistants, Mill Manager, Mill Foreman, Saw-doctor, 2 Works Supervisors, Yard Foreman, Assistant Accountant, Storekeeper Accountant, Departmental Assistant.

Principal Office Assistant, 32 Clerks, 2 Senior Storekeepers, 12 Storemen, 1 Cook, 3 Forest Rangers, 61 Foresters and Assistant Foresters, 26 Student Foresters.

167 Forest Guards and Patrolmen, 111 Afforestation Capitaos and Nurserymen, 9 Survey Assistants and Chainmen, 4 Foremen, 8 Foremen Sawyers and Sawyers, 24 Artisans, 34 Drivers, 10 Messengers, First Aid Capitaos, 3 Watchmen.

FISHERIES

Catches of fish by non-African concerns were slightly higher in 1956, being 2,680 short tons in the south-eastern arm and 214 tons in the south-western arm as compared with 2,500 and 130 tons, respectively, in 1955.

A notable event during the year was the licensing of a new European fishing concern to operate over the whole of Lake Nyasa. Development by the firm is beginning in the south-eastern arm and is spreading northwards, satisfactory development outside the south-eastern arm being a condition of the licence. The firm's activities during the year were largely exploratory but were considered promising. Particularly satisfactory was the attention paid by this firm to the transporting and marketing of fish, which was being carried in boxes by the end of the year. Refrigerated transport is expected in the near future, together with cold storage.

African commercial fishing in the South continued satisfactorily, but the lack of a Fisheries Officer during the latter part of the year made the continuation of advice and encouragement difficult. One African concern obtained a loan from the Native Development and Welfare Fund for expansion of its business.

A Commission of Enquiry into the Fishing Industry was appointed during the year; its report is to be published in January, 1957.

With the departure of the main body of the Joint Fisheries Research Organization team from Nkata Bay, only one officer was left in charge of the station. Work therefore continued on a small scale until he went on leave in June and routine hydrobiological observations continued. A new Colonial Development and Welfare scheme now provides for the continuation of the research, including the appointment of a second Scientific Officer for Nkata Bay. The recruitment of this officer was delayed because of the lack of housing, but a full programme of work is expected in 1957.

A Fish Ranger is now stationed at Nkata Bay to develop African fishing. A boat-building scheme is now in full swing and the preparations for a training school for fishermen proceeded smoothly. The first courses will be held early in 1957.

Following the satisfactory fish-farming trials at Nchenachena, courses of instruction were begun in October. With the assistance of the Fish Ranger (Rivers) Africans started work on nine fish-farms, of which four were completed during the year. Twenty farms awaited survey. Cropping of the Tipwiri fish-farm during November and December yielded £25 worth of fish; the value of fish from this farm for the complete season is expected to be £100.

Good trout fishing is now available from streams in the Rumpi area. 13-inch fish are usual and several between 15 inches and 18 inches have been caught. A small rest house was constructed on the North Rumpi River and work on a larger one on the Kaziwiziwi River was put in hand. In July, 15,000 trout eggs were hatched at Matandani for stocking the Wamkulumadzi River in the Mwanza area of Blantyre District.

MINING AND GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

By virtue of the Nyasaland Protectorate (African Trust Land) Order in Council, 1950, the entire property in minerals in African trust land, save for land which has been alienated by the Crown and land in respect of which prospecting and mining rights subsist, is vested in the Secretary of State for the Colonies, to be controlled by the Governor for the use or common benefit, direct or indirect, of the African inhabitants of the Protectorate. The Governor may, subject to existing Protectorate legislation, make grants to search for and work minerals, but in so doing shall have regard to general African interests and, before making any grant for the working of minerals, shall consult the Native Authority of the area concerned.

The British South Africa Company hold mineral rights over large areas of the Protectorate, covering the Karonga District and part of the Rumpi District in the Northern Province and the Kasungu, Kota Kota, Lilongwe and Dedza Districts and part of the Dowa District in the Central Province.

The Commissioner of Mines may, under the Mining Ordinance, issue prospecting rights and may register claims, while the Governor may grant exclusive prospecting licences and mining leases. Prospecting rights, as also exclusive prospecting licences and claims, allow the recipients to prospect and mine respectively for a period of one year, but they are capable of renewal. Mining leases are available for terms between 5 and 21 years.

Royalties are payable in respect of all minerals extracted; if on African trust land outside the British South Africa Company's areas, the royalties are payable in part to the Native Treasury concerned and in part to the Protectorate revenue in such proportions as may be determined by the Governor with the approval of the Secretary of State for the Colonies; if on the Company's land, 50 per cent. of the royalties is payable to the Company.

The following minerals are known to exist in the Protectorate, although hitherto comparatively little mining activity has taken place:—

Apatite, asbestos, bauxite, beryl, coal, corundum, fluorspar, felspar, galena, garnet, graphite, ilmenite, iron ore, kyanite, limestone, magnesite, manganese ore, mica, monazite, pyrochlore, rutile, vermiculite, zinc-blende and zircon.

In addition, prospecting operations in the Mwanza area during the year led to the discovery of the following minerals not hitherto met with in Nyasaland:—

Davidite, betafite, allanite.

During the year 28 Prospecting Rights were issued. At the end of the year 10 Exclusive Prospecting Licences were extant, of which 9 had been issued in 1956. No mining leases were granted in 1956, but at the end of the year 3 were still extant. During the year 2 mining claims were renewed, but no new claims were registered. 15 Export Permits were issued, but solely in respect of samples obtained during the course of prospecting.

Control over radio-active minerals is exercised under the Radio-Active Minerals Ordinance; no person is permitted to prospect for or mine any radio-active minerals except under licence. During the year 16 such licences were issued. In general, greater interest was taken by the larger Mining Companies during the year than in 1955. No export of minerals on a commercial basis took place. A number of radio-active samples were sent for analysis to Southern Africa, Europe, and the United States.

No processing of minerals is undertaken in the Protectorate and there is at present no separate mining department. The post of Commissioner of Mines, an appointment under the Mining Ordinance, is held by the Secretary, Lands and Mines, an officer of the Secretariat.

No increase in the establishment of the Geological Survey Department took place during the year; the total staff strength remained at approximately 230.

After discussions concerning the future organization of the Geological Survey Department in relation to its water-boring activities, it was decided that a new department, the Department of Water Development, should be formed by amalgamating the former Hydrographic Branch of the Agricultural Department with the Water Boring Section of the Geological Survey Department. With this in view the Estimates for the Financial Year 1956/57 were framed to show a clear division between the Mineralogical Survey and the Water Boring Sections. As, however, circumstances made it impossible to appoint a Director for the new department before the beginning of the financial year, it was agreed that the Director of Geological Survey should continue to administer the Water Boring Section until the end of 1956 or until such time thereafter as a new Director was appointed and in a position to assume control.

Of the total establishment, some 85 officers belong to the Mineralogical Section, comprising the Director, 6 Geologists (of whom 2 are seconded to the Water Section for the geophysical siting of boreholes), 1 Draughtsman (not yet appointed), 1 Departmental Assistant, 1 Clerk, 5 Field Assistants, 6 Drivers, 4 Capitaos and 10 Chainmen, as well as miscellaneous minor employees. The vacancy for the sixth geologist was filled, the successful applicant arriving from the United Kingdom at the end of the year.

Geological mapping of the Southern Province continued, an area of some 1,360 square miles being covered, mainly in the Ncheu, Mlanje and Zomba Districts; that part of the Kirk Range which former reconnaissance had suggested might be of particular economic interest was also included. Although traverse intervals were reduced on this account to give more intensive cover, no mineral deposits of any economic value were discovered there, apart from a deposit of manganese ore which appears to be too small to be of any importance. Deposits of iron, asbestos, graphite and kyanite were examined, but proved disappointing, although it was from one of these that 2,683 tons of kyanite, valued at approximately £27,000 were exported between 1952 and 1954.

Although ratemeters were carried by geologists on all traverses, only in the Zomba area to the south and south-west of Lake Chilwa was any degree of radio-activity noted. Here sand bars, marking ancient shorelines of Lake Chilwa, gave indications of the presence of monazite-bearing sands, and at the base of Mpyupyu Hill a body of silicified rock was located and found to contain small quantities of radio-active material associated with sulphides.

At Tundulu Hill, over which an Exclusive Prospecting Licence was taken out by the Anglo-American Corporation, an investigation was begun into the rich apatite deposit discovered there in 1954. One of the Corporation's geologists spent several months investigating the occurrence by trenching and drilling. Samples sent to the Corporation's headquarters for analysis confirmed the preliminary estimate of grade and tonnage made by the Department.

Messrs. Weedons Minerals, Ltd., continued to retain their Exclusive Prospecting Licence over the vermiculite deposits in the Neno-Mpatamanga area of the Blantyre District discovered by the Department last year, but they have not yet carried out full investigations.

During the year negotiations were opened by the Rhodesian Selection Trust for the taking over of the Nyasaland interests (i.e., the Chilwa Island pyrochlore deposits) of the London Tin Corporation's subsidiary, the London and Nyasaland Mining Corporation, Limited. These were satisfactorily concluded in time to allow geologists of the Rhodesian Selection Trust to visit the island, under the guidance of one of the Department's geologists, before the onset of the wet season. They were also shown over an area near Mlanje in which monazite, containing a high percentage of thorium, had been located.

The radio-active sands near Monkey Bay, which were discovered in 1955 by geologists of the Department and of the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Division, were further prospected, both by private interests and by a geologist from the Atomic Energy Authority's Salisbury Office. These sands are now covered by the issue of an Exclusive Prospecting Licence. Results so far obtained suggest that they may prove a useful source of thorium for British atomic power stations in future years. This will be of considerable importance if thorium is used as an alternative to uranium as a source of atomic power. Towards the end of the year further extensive areas of monazite-bearing sands were discovered lying along the east shores of Lake Nyasa, between Fort Johnston and Fort Maguire. An Exclusive Prospecting Licence over these areas was granted to a Southern Rhodesian mining company which has taken over the interests previously held by the Mineral Research Syndicate.

New Consolidated Goldfields continued their prospecting operations in the Central Province throughout the year, but did not report any significant discoveries there. During April work was started by the same company in the areas allocated to them in the Chikwawa District and in the Mwanza Sub-District of the Southern Province. They were engaged in prospecting for radio-active minerals. The results obtained showed considerable promise, but it is too early yet to assess their economic importance. Before work was stopped at the onset of the rains, deposits containing the following minerals had been located: betafite, columbite, davidite, allanite and monazite mainly in the region of Tambani Mountain.



The final meeting of Legislative Council on 6th February, 1956, in the old Council Chamber before the new constitution came into force. On the same day the foundation stone of the new Legislative Council building was laid.



The main block of the Colby School of Agriculture and Veterinary Science, Chitedzi, Central Province, named after the then Governor, Sir Geoffrey Colby, K.C.M.G., who opened it on 23rd February, 1956. The School can accommodate 120 students.



A demonstration of disc-cultivation, using oxen, by African Agricultural Instructors at the Colby School of Agriculture.



An ox-drawn farm cart of the type introduced by the Agricultural Department in 1951 and subsidized by Government to encourage better farming practices on African trust land. A total of 1,066 carts have so far been sold to Africans.



African farmers in the Southern Province working communally on bunding under the supervision of African Instructors of the Agricultural Department.



The finished product. A well-bunded and-ridged slope, correctly conserved against the effects of tropical rainfall,



A typical cattle *khola* of the old type after rain. Conditions such as these have in the past held back improvement of indigenous stock.



The new type of cattle *khola* introduced by the Veterinary Department in 1953 and subsidized by Government. It has resulted in a marked decrease in cattle mortality, particularly among calves.



Village women drawing water from the local stream. Very often women have to carry water considerable distances to their huts.



Women using a borehole sunk by the Geological Survey Department. A total of 122 successful boreholes were sunk by the Department during 1956, each producing an average yield of 670 gallons per hour.



Typical wattle-and-daub huts in an African village.



His Excellency the Governor, Sir Robert Armitage, K.C.M.G., M.B.E., inspecting new houses in the Soche High Density Residential Area. The house shown is one of several built by the Blantyre Council of Chiefs and Commons for its employees.



His Excellency the Governor and Lady Armitage arriving to attend the service on 23rd October, 1956, at Blantyre in commemoration of the 80th Anniversary of the Foundation of the Church of Scotland Mission, Blantyre.



His Excellency the Governor greeting the Inkosi wa Makosi M'mbelwa during the celebrations held at Ilora on 23rd June, 1956, to mark the 60th anniversary of the reign of Chief Mtwalo, who is seen on the right of the Inkosi.



Collecting the Central Province ballot papers at Chileka Airport, Blantyre, during the first territorial elections held in March, 1956.



The Njakwa-Kasito bridge in the Rumpi District, Northern Province, built with money from the Beit Trust. This bridge, the first to be built with the aid of the Beit Trust, was opened by His Excellency the Governor on 23rd June, 1956.

The deposit of cerium-rich monazite at Kangankunde Hill remained unworked pending the solution of the problems which had arisen in the search for a suitable method of separation and concentration preparatory to shipping.

An exclusive Prospecting Licence over some 35 square miles of country lying between Chiromo and Port Herald was granted to an important British company for the purpose of working rutile-ilmenite deposits; this company is interested in the titanium industry. Active prospecting work had started by the end of the year and will be extended during 1957. These deposits were first investigated by the Geological Survey Department in 1934 and 1935.

Messrs. Rhodesia Cement Limited, having satisfied themselves as to the quality and quantity of limestone available at Changalumi Hill, west of Zomba, proceeded to open up a quarry there preparatory to the erection of their cement factory nearby. Investigations carried out by one of the Department's geologists on clay deposits in the neighbourhood resulted in the location of material suitable for cement manufacture, except that it suffered from a slight deficiency of iron content. To remedy this, a further search was instituted for iron-rich material for mixing with the clay and limestone. This brought to light a large deposit of high-grade mixed magnetite-hematite iron ore within a few miles of the factory site. Thus all the mineral ingredients for the local manufacture of cement at Changalumi are now available with the one exception of gypsum, which will have to be imported either from South Africa or from Tanganyika.

As in previous years, assistance was given to the Consultants to the Shire Valley Project in the solution of geological problems, and cores from exploratory boreholes sunk at the Matope Dam site were examined and described. The Department's large diamond drilling machine, which had been used for testing the Livingstonia Coalfield in 1948 and 1949, was lent for use at Matope in order to speed up the investigations on the dam site and to provide better core-recovery than was possible with the small machine previously in use.

The following papers were completed during the year:

Preliminary Report on the Sumbu-Nkombedzi Coalfield, Chikwawa District, by F. Habgood.

Bulletin No. 8. The Geology of the Nkana Coalfield, by K. Bloomfield.

Bulletin No. 9. The Geology of the Port Herald Hills Area, by K. Bloomfield.

Bulletin No. 10. The Geology of the Middle Shire Area, by S. W. Morel.

Memoir No. 1. The Geology of Chilwa Island, by M. S. Garson.

In addition, a paper entitled "The Chambe Plateau Ring Complex of Nyasaland" by K. V. Stringer, D. N. Holt and A. W. Groves, to which Mr. Holt of the Geological Survey Department contributed the section on field investigations, appeared in "Colonial Geology and Mineral Resources" Volume 6, No. 1.

Three papers were submitted to the International Geological Conference for presentation at the meeting held at Mexico City in September, i.e., "The Manganiferous Rocks of Nyasaland" and "Stress Pattern of Carbonatite and Alkaline Dykes at Tundulu Ring Structure, Southern Nyasaland", both by M. S. Garson, and "The Nepheline-Gneisses of Southern Nyasaland" by K. Bloomfield.

In October, the Geological Survey Department moved into the new headquarters built at Zomba by the Public Works Department. The vacated buildings had been the home of the Department since 1922. Besides offices for the Director, geologists and clerical staff, the new building also contains such facilities as a museum, a laboratory, a rock-grinding room, a rock storeroom, a drawing office and a library.

The Water Supply Section, now increased to six drilling units, each equipped with an efficient, modern machine, continued to sink and equip boreholes for African village communities, Government departments and townships. A total of 132 boreholes were drilled, of which 122 were successful. In addition, owing to the pressure of work on the Department's machines, three boreholes, sited by the Department for Government purposes, were drilled under private contracts; drilling was supervised and the pumping plant erected by the Section's staff. The total footage drilled came to approximately 17,000 feet, the average depth of boreholes being 129 feet and the average yield of successful holes 670 gallons per hour. The proportion of successful boreholes was 93 per cent. Geophysical surveys carried out by the geologists seconded to the Water Section numbered 162, of which 27 were for private individuals or estates.

Although the scheme for rebates on unsuccessful boreholes sited by the Geological Survey Department was in force throughout the year, no claims were received, thus indicating that all such sites yielded water.

MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

The main local industry in the Protectorate is the manufacture of cigarettes and tobacco. The principal firm concerned is the Rhodesia and Nyasaland Tobacco Company, Ltd., whose factory, situated in the Blantyre/Limbe area, again kept pace with local demands during the year.

Messrs. Lever Brothers (Rhodesia) Ltd. (formerly the Citrona Soap Company) produces the bulk of Nyasaland's soap requirements.

During 1956 a record 1,840 tons of soap were produced as against the previous year's record 1,775 tons. In addition, the firm produced 420 tons of edible oil and fat as against 415 tons in 1955.

The two principal manufacturers of clothing in the Protectorate, the London and Blantyre Supply Company and the Nyasaland Clothing Company, again enjoyed a successful year; the former company has a factory at Lilongwe, while the latter's is at Limbe. Both firms again installed new machinery and increased their ranges. A number of branded garments were put on the market and increased quantities of clothing were exported to the Rhodesias.

A small firm in the Southern Province, making full use of an industrial waste product, is Nyasaland Tobacco Products. By an extraction process nicotine sulphate is produced from tobacco waste; it commands a select and lucrative market in the Union of South Africa, where it is further processed into a powerful insecticide. The annual output of the firm varies according to the demand from the Union and to the amount of scrap tobacco available. During 1956 the firm exported just under 30,000 lb. of its product.

A cement mill, built in the Blantyre/Limbe industrial area for the Rhodesia Cement Company, was opened by the Federal Minister of Supply and Power in November, 1956. Initially, clinker is being sent by rail from Dondo in Portuguese East Africa for conversion to cement. However, investigations conducted during the year into limestone deposits near Zomba proved successful and it is now intended to manufacture clinker there to supply the Blantyre grinding mill.

The Nyasaland Oil Industries Ltd. is erecting an oil seed expression factory near Blantyre to process cotton and other oil seeds with the intention of producing edible oil and seed cake. It is anticipated that the factory will come into operation towards the end of next year; it expects to process 5,000 tons of cotton seed annually.

Messrs. Hitchings and Kay (Pty.) Ltd. operate a granadilla juice extraction factory near Blantyre. Adequate supplies of the fruit were received during the year from the Cholo area where over 200 acres have been planted under granadilla. The juice is sold in a concentrated form to fruit cordial manufacturers in the Federation.

The mineral water factory near Blantyre, which was opened in 1955, produced the usual range of mineral waters, as well as Coca Cola, and met demands adequately.

Among handicrafts practised in the Protectorate are carpentry, ivory- and wood-carving, pottery, basketry and weaving of mats, but none of these is sufficiently far developed to be styled an industry. The products of these crafts play an important part in village life, and, apart from this, find a ready market among tourists and European residents, either for utilitarian purposes or as curios. No state aid is

given in respect of these crafts nor are there any credit societies connected with them.

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES

At the beginning of 1956 there were 76 registered Co-operative Societies in Nyasaland. During the year eight new societies were registered and the registration of three existing societies cancelled. The new registrations comprised six dairy produce and two consumer societies, one of them European; the cancelled societies comprised one dairy produce and two consumer societies. All the cancelled societies existed in isolated areas and shifts in population made them redundant. The numbers, types and membership of the societies on the Register at 31st December, 1956, were as follows:—

<i>Type of Society</i>				<i>Number of Societies</i>		<i>Membership</i>
(i) PRIMARY SOCIETIES						
Dairy Producer	..	..	..	46	..	1,115
Rice Producer	..	..	..	11	..	2,934
Coffee Producer	..	..	..	2	..	348
Maize Milling	..	..	..	1	..	33
Traders Supply	..	..	..	1	..	51
Produce (General)	..	..	..	1	..	119
Consumer	..	..	..	13	..	1,417
TOTAL				<u>75</u>		<u>6,017</u>
(ii) SECONDARY SOCIETIES						<i>Member Societies</i>
Union—Supply and Services	..	..	..	1	..	6
Unions of Dairy Societies	..	..	..	2	..	41
Unions of Rice Societies	..	..	..	3	..	11
TOTAL				<u>6</u>		<u>58</u>

Rice. The 1954/55 season was a bad one for rice growers in Nyasaland. They had been led to expect a price of 2½d per lb., but the heavy slump in world prices prevented their obtaining it. To aggravate the situation, the 1954/55 crop was the largest ever purchased in Nyasaland, the co-operative societies alone buying over 3,600 tons. Moreover, it was not possible to obtain sufficiently modern milling facilities which could produce a grade of rice acceptable to buyers in the Rhodesias. This constituted a serious loss, as buyers were willing to pay £60 per ton for rice of a high quality and standard of milling. Because of the lack of suitable milling facilities, the whole of the Southern Province crop had to be held over unmilled until they did become available. By February, 1956, rice co-operatives owed Government over £62,000 in respect of advances made for "buying-in" the previous season's paddy crop.

During 1956 every effort was made to counteract the adverse effects of the 1954/55 season. A policy of retrenchment and economy

was adopted by all rice co-operatives and, in order further to stabilize the position, the price of paddy for the 1955/56 season was reduced to 1½d per lb. The new rice mill of the Shire River Rice Growers' Co-operative Union at Chiromo was brought into operation and milling started in April, 1956, resulting in a high-grade product, which has already become popular in the Rhodesias. As a result of these measures, it was possible to pay back during the year the Government advance of over £62,000 with interest and, of the further advance of £16,500 made in 1956, only just over £4,000 remained outstanding at 31st December, 1956. Nevertheless, the profits of the rice societies this year are not likely to be high as, except for the Kota Kota area in the Northern Province which was largely unaffected, the unsatisfactory rains resulted in poor rice yields in most areas. This low yield, added to the growers' reluctance to sell at 1½d per lb., resulted in the very low figure of 1,154 tons of paddy being purchased by the societies. However, it is expected that the internal and Federal demands will be met and that the co-operatives will have sufficient working capital in hand for the 1956/57 season.

The Kilupula Rice Growers' Co-operative Union showed only a small surplus of £1,168 for the 1955/56 season; as a result no bonus was paid to growers. In Karonga District only 554 tons were purchased as against the 1954/55 season's 2,107 tons. The Machinga Union (Zomba District) and the Shire River Union (Port Herald and Chikwawa Districts) purchased jointly only 610 tons as against 1,500 tons for the previous season.

Nevertheless, in spite of the setback of these two seasons, all the unions made small profits and have benefited by the internal re-organization that circumstances demanded. The price of paddy for the 1956/57 season will be 2d per lb. and it is hoped that this increase will do much to encourage growers to stimulate production and to secure the foundations of this important and expanding industry.

Ghee. The ghee industry is centred in the Northern Province, with a few small dairies in the Kasungu District of the Central Province. There are now 41 individual dairy societies operating in the Northern Province under the control of the two parent Unions at Chinunka and Kafukule. Ghee production in 1955 was a record 46,300 lb. This year a total of 47,300 lb. has been produced and marketed for a total of £9,442 as against £8,200 in 1955. This sum of money, after the deduction of production and marketing expenses, went back directly to the isolated areas of Bulambia and the Kasitu Valley where there is practically no other economic return available to the inhabitants. The average price of milk to the producer in both areas, made up of first payment and bonus, was 1s-0d per gallon. During the year a canning plant was installed at the factory of the Northern Co-operative Union at Rumpi. Here the ghee is hermetically sealed in six-pound tins which are then packed into cardboard cartons each containing six tins; the whole operation is both quick and efficient, but has naturally

raised the overall cost of the production of ghee, and a very real marketing problem has arisen. During 1956 the ghee so produced was purchased by a firm for marketing chiefly in the Southern Province where the main demand for ghee is centred. Towards the end of the year, however, considerable quantities of cheap imported ghee began to appear in Limbe and Blantyre. This ghee was landed very cheaply and seriously affected the sales of local ghee in the last few months of the year. In spite of this competition, 1956 was, however, a good year for producers and the two parent Unions have now almost completely paid off the original Native Development and Welfare Fund capital loans on which they built up their organizations.

Coffee. There are two coffee producer societies: one in Rumpi District, centred around Nchenachena, and the other in the Misuku area of Karonga District. Both societies have made great strides during 1956 in the quantity and quality of the coffee produced. The effect of the expansion of coffee gardens, which has taken place over the last four years in both areas, is beginning to show in production figures. In 1955 a total of nearly 30,000 lb. of parchment coffee was purchased by the societies. This year the figure has reached 45,900 lb. and there is every reason to expect a corresponding increase in 1957.

The crop is purchased by the societies in parchment form, and transported to the factory of the Northern Co-operative Union at Rumpi where it is hulled, winnowed and graded, and subsequently put on the market. The up-to-date machinery recently installed at Rumpi for this purpose has proved a sound investment, as a very high grade of coffee is being produced, and at twice the speed which was previously possible. In 1955 most of the coffee produced was sold on the world market, after local demand had been satisfied, at a price of £485 per long ton delivered Limbe. It was thus possible to pay a bonus to growers which brought their receipts up to 2s-0d per lb. for first-grade parchment coffee. This is the best price so far paid to members since the inception of the societies. The 1956 coffee crop was valued on the Moshi Auction Floor at £500 per long ton, and has been sold at this figure delivered Limbe for export to Europe, where Nyasaland coffee is beginning to be known and liked. After local demand has been satisfied it is hoped to export some 18 short tons of coffee. New coffee areas are now under cultivation in the Nkata Bay and Mzimba Districts, and plans have been made for the establishment of coffee co-operatives there, as well as for the extension and improvement of existing societies.

Supply. The Northern Co-operative Union, which is situated at Rumpi, acts as an agency providing supplies and services for co-operative organizations in the Northern Province which are situated in remote areas. It has three main sections: Supply, Transport and Factory.

The Supply Section provides basic commodities, such as sugar, salt, paraffin, flour and piece-goods, at very low prices and delivers

them with its own transport. Its sales during the year reached a total of £4,871, as against £3,000 in 1955. In addition, the Section operates two petrol stations, one at Rumpi and the other at Chisenga. Sales of petrol and oil amounted to £3,236 during the year, as against £3,500 in 1955.

The Transport Section operates a scheduled service over the whole of the Northern Province. It collects the produce of member societies and delivers consumer goods and petrol to them. It is also available for hire by Government and private individuals. During the year the pay-load mileage covered by the Section's two lorries was 16,000 miles, earning the sum of £1,589 in transport receipts, as against 18,300 miles in 1955 which earned £1,838.

The Factory Section has expanded considerably during 1956. It processes, grades and sorts the coffee of the two coffee societies on a commission basis; the commission covers the operating costs only, the full profit from the sale of the coffee being passed back to the primary societies. The new ghee-canning plant will also operate on the same basis; the canning machinery is so efficient that the whole of the present monthly average of approximately 5,000 lb. is canned in two to three days. The Factory Section also operates a maize mill and, in addition, produces wholemeal flour of excellent quality milled from wheat grown in Rumpi District; this wheat is purchased by the primary societies.

Consumer Societies. During 1956 the total number of these societies remained unchanged: two small societies were liquidated and two others registered. One of the latter was a European society operating in Blantyre. Generally speaking, consumer societies only function successfully in areas where there is little efficient trade competition and where the inhabitants therefore give their full support.

Organization. All co-operative organizations in Nyasaland are controlled and supervised by the Department of Co-operative Development, the staff of which includes a Commissioner, two Co-operative Society Officers and nine African Co-operative Assistants. In addition to supervising the day-to-day activities of all societies, the Department gives training in book-keeping and business methods to the staff of the societies and, in addition, carries out a complete audit of the books of all societies at least once a year.

The capital with which co-operative societies begin business is provided from the Native Development and Welfare Fund as loans and a rate of interest is charged. Interest repayments by societies in 1956 amounted to £4,200. A number of societies also made substantial loan repayments during the year. In addition, a total of £76,000 in respect of crop advances was repaid. The larger societies made considerable progress in improving their business techniques during the year and many expanded their activities; there is no doubt that co-operative societies in Nyasaland are becoming an increasingly important factor in the Protectorate's economy.

Chapter 7

Social Services

EDUCATION

As non-African and higher African education are the exclusive responsibilities of the Government of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland, the information contained in this section refers only to the education of Africans up to and including secondary school level.

The Education Department is headed by a Director and a Deputy Director, with ancillary staff at headquarters. There are 19 Education Officers, of whom six are engaged on inspection work and the remainder on teaching duty. During 1956 four Africans (three men and one woman) were appointed as Education Officers, while one other African acted as such. This is the first time in the Department's history that Africans have been appointed to this post. The Education Officers engaged on inspection work are assisted by 15 African Inspectors and Assistant Inspectors. One secondary school, one teacher training centre, one junior trade school and two primary schools are directly controlled and staffed by the Education Department and during the year staff was also appointed in preparation for the opening of a Government Artisan Training Centre. The rest of the educational system is managed by voluntary agencies. These are principally the Christian Missions, but there are 79 primary schools managed variously by Native Authorities, local communities, estates, commercial enterprises, the Moslem community and local education authorities. Assistance is given to many of the voluntary agency schools by both the Central Government and Local Authorities by means of grants-in-aid and inspections by Government Officers.

Government is assisted in evolving its educational policy by an Advisory Committee on African Education which, under the chairmanship of the Director of Education, comprises representatives of Government, the African population, the principal Christian Missions and other interested persons. There is a District Education Committee in each administrative district. Where a District Council has been established, this Committee is set up by the District Council. Where there is no District Council the Committee is established by the Central Government, under the Education Ordinance. In 1956, for the first time, a District Education Committee assumed responsibility, by agreement with the Mission concerned, for several schools previously under Mission management.

The various types of school, with the average age of entry and leaving, are as follows:—

<i>Type of School</i>	<i>Type of Education</i>	<i>Average age on entry</i>	<i>Average age on leaving</i>
Junior primary	1st–5th year of education	7	12
Senior primary	6th–8th „ „ „	12	15
Junior secondary	9th–10th „ „ „	15	17
Secondary	9th–12th „ „ „	15	19
Junior trade	9th–11th „ „ „	15	18
Artisan training	9th–13th „ „ „	15	20

The total actual expenditure by Government on African education in the financial year 1955/56 was some £505,000 made up as follows:—

	<i>Recurrent</i>	<i>Capital</i>	<i>Totals</i>
	£	£	£
Ordinary	70,000 ..	44,000 ..	114,000
Grant-in-Aid	359,000 ..	32,000 ..	391,000
TOTALS	429,000	76,000	505,000

In addition, local authorities provided expenditure as follows:—

<i>Recurrent</i>	<i>Capital</i>	<i>Total</i>
£3,486 ..	£3,942 ..	£7,428

Voluntary organizations spent approximately £218,999 on education, made up as follows:—

<i>Recurrent</i>	<i>Capital</i>	<i>Total</i>
£133,368 ..	£85,631 ..	£218,999

Of the 3,146 junior primary schools functioning during the year, 2 were Government schools with a total enrolment of 301; 701 were aided junior primary school streams with a total enrolment of 98,473; and 2,443 were unaided junior primary schools (the majority of which provides only the first two years of the school course) with an approximate enrolment of 145,956. Government schools were staffed by 10 African teachers, aided schools by 2,344 African teachers and unaided schools by 3,034 African teachers.

There were 148 senior primary school streams of which 1 was a Government school stream; 134 were aided voluntary agency school streams; and 13 were unaided voluntary agency school streams. The roll at the Government school was 102 and at the aided schools 13,426. The Government school was staffed by 4 African teachers and the aided schools by 47 European and 385 African teachers. Enrolment at the 13 unaided schools amounted to 921; these were staffed by 26 African teachers.

There were 8 aided junior secondary schools and 2 unaided schools of this type. Enrolment at the aided schools was 400 and at the unaided schools 116. The staff of the aided schools comprised 33 European and 16 African teachers, while at the unaided schools there were 8 European and 2 African teachers. There were 3 full secondary schools, of which 1 was a Government school. At this school a second stream was opened during the year; the total roll was 151. The other 2 were financed by Government, except for such revenue as they derived

from fees, and managed by Boards of Governors on which Government was represented. Their total enrolment was 212. The Government school was staffed by 6 European and 3 African teachers and the aided schools by 10 European teachers and 1 African teacher.

There were 2 junior trade schools with a total enrolment of 106. One was a Government school and one was an aided school. The former was staffed by 3 European teachers and the latter by 3 European and 2 African teachers.

The number of Nyasaland Africans pursuing higher education during the year with the aid of scholarships provided by public funds was as follows:—

<i>No. of Students</i>	<i>Institution attended</i>	<i>Course followed</i>	<i>By whom scholarship provided</i>
2	Makerere College	.. Arts ..	Federal Govt.
1	Fort Hare	.. Science ..	Federal Govt.
1	Witwatersrand University	Medicine ..	Federal Govt.
4	Roma University College	Arts ..	Federal Govt.
1	Bristol University	.. Education (Post graduate) ..	C.D. & W.F.
1	Bristol University	.. Education (non- graduate) ..	Nyasaland Govt.
1	Bristol University	.. Medicine ..	Federal Govt.
2	Bath Domestic Science	Domestic Science	C.D. & W.F.
1	Natal University	.. Medicine ..	Federal Govt.

Fifteen African students from Nyasaland are believed to have been studying at Universities in India with scholarships provided by the Government of India and by private Indian donors.

One Government teacher training centre with 4 streams, 9 aided teacher training centres with 11 streams and 2 unaided single stream centres were in operation during the year. Assistance was withdrawn from the vernacular grade course during the year. The remaining courses comprised the English Grade course giving two years of professional training after Standard VI, the Higher Grade course giving two years of training after Standard VIII, and a smaller Higher course providing two years of training after Standard X. The details are as follows:—

<i>Type of Course</i>	<i>No. of Streams</i>	<i>Total enrolment 1956</i>
Higher	1	6
Higher Grade	3	109
English Grade	11	575
TOTAL	15	690

The number of teachers who passed out of centres in 1956 and entered the teaching profession was 232.

The salaries of teachers were revised during the year and increases were granted corresponding to those given to civil servants. Progress continued with preparations for the establishment of a unified African teaching service, and the necessary arrangements were nearing completion by the end of the year.

Continued efforts were made to satisfy the educational needs of adults and of children who were too old for admission to primary schools. Mass literacy drives were again organized by voluntary agencies. Literature in two vernacular languages and in English continued to be provided by the Joint Publications Bureau of Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland. This organization has its Nyasaland book-selling headquarters in Blantyre/Limbe and maintains a full-time manager there. It has branches at Zomba, Lilongwe and Mzimba and has seven other selling agencies; in addition, a number of shops, under both commercial and Mission management, sell its publications under agreement. A travelling van, originally provided from Colonial Development and Welfare funds and now jointly maintained by the Bureau and voluntary agencies, also undertakes the sale of literature. The Nyasaland Government Information Services continued to issue the weekly newspaper *Msimbi*, with news and articles in English and in the main vernaculars. This periodical has an average circulation of just under 9,000 and each copy is believed to reach at least five readers.

A number of Africans who had left school continued their studies privately, often with the aid of correspondence courses. To assist such studies Government undertakes the conduct of public examinations of outside bodies. A total of 1,046 candidates sat for such examinations during the year.

HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING

The African population is largely housed in traditional wattle-and-daub dwellings of round or oblong design. These are often very primitive, but year by year a steady improvement in the standard of African housing may be noted. Wattle-and-daub houses now more frequently contain windows and have separate kitchens and pit latrines. The more progressive African is clearly being influenced by the permanent housing provided by Government and the large industrial undertakings and more and more African-built houses are being constructed of burnt brick with wooden doors and glazed windows. The average size of houses is also increasing. European-type bungalows are by no means infrequently found on the outskirts of traditional wattle-and-daub villages; they are often tastefully decorated and well maintained.

In the town, where industrial undertakings are situated, some employers maintain their own workers' settlements. Generally speaking, employers have improved the type of house, as well as the recreational facilities and other amenities provided for their workers.

Much of the housing so provided consisted until recently of wattle-and-daub buildings with grass roofs. It is now becoming more widely recognized, however, that not only is such housing uneconomic, but that modern and comfortable housing will attract a permanent labour force. Advice and encouragement have been given by the Labour Department, and some of the more progressive employers are now erecting modern, permanent buildings. While there is still much to be done, it is encouraging to report that most of the tea estates in the Southern Province are extending and improving their African housing and that an extensive housing scheme has been undertaken by one of the largest estates in the Cholo area. The Nyasaland Railways continue to expand their housing estate at Limbe each year. The outstanding achievement, however, is a model village under construction by the Imperial Tobacco Company, near Limbe. When fully completed in about two years time this planned village will represent one of the finest African housing schemes in southern Africa.

The local authorities and Government (also representing Federal Government interests) continued to give careful consideration to the provision of staff housing in the major townships of Blantyre/Limbe and Lilongwe. Provision has been made for high density residential areas catering for African urban settlement. Considerable building activity, particularly on the part of Government, has taken place in these areas during the year and Government has introduced schemes for Africans either to borrow money with which to build their own houses, or alternatively, to purchase Government-built houses on an instalment plan.

During the year 689 African staff quarters were constructed by Government at various stations throughout the Protectorate including 100 houses for staff of the Blantyre/Limbe Group Hospital. In addition, considerable strides were made in the provision of additional housing for European and Asian Government staff. Seventy-two new houses and 28 flats were completed during the year. New designs for both European and African staff houses for high and low level stations and plans for a special type of African staff house for officers of the Junior Executive Division were approved by Government.

All new African staff quarters built on stations which have, or are likely in the foreseeable future to have, an electricity supply, are appropriately wired. A start was made during the year to wire existing African staff quarters previously unconnected to an electricity supply.

Investigations were undertaken this year into the possibility of providing certain types of African staff quarters with cheap electric cookers. The trials in progress at the moment will be extended in 1957.

There are only three townships of any size in Nyasaland—Blantyre/Limbe, Zomba and Lilongwe. Overcrowding has been manifest in the Blantyre/Limbe township among the Asian community, who have hitherto been living mainly in the cramped quarters attached to their

trading stores. During 1955 the lay-out of a new medium density residential area midway between Blantyre and Limbe was completed and the plots made available in this area have assisted in the relief of this overcrowding. As far as the African population is concerned, the majority still live in traditional wattle-and-daub houses. As has been explained, steps are, however, being taken to provide a higher standard of housing for Africans in the urban areas, and, as work progresses, it will be possible gradually to eliminate traditional African houses from the townships.

The Town Planning Service for Nyasaland is now provided by the Chief Town Planning Officer, Southern Rhodesia, and responsibility for the organization and administration of the Town Planning Office, Blantyre, rests with him; he is represented in Blantyre by a resident Town Planning Officer.

In general, the Town Planning Office gives advice on all planning problems within Nyasaland, but most of its work is naturally concentrated in the more populated areas of the country and in particular the Blantyre/Limbe and the Lilongwe areas. The Town Planning Office is located in Blantyre and is staffed by a Town Planning Officer, a Technical Assistant and a Draughtsman employed by the Southern Rhodesia Government and a clerk/stenographer and an African office-boy employed by the Nyasaland Government. Planning powers are exercised in both the Blantyre/Limbe and Lilongwe areas by Town and Country Planning Committees and the Town Planning Officer acts as adviser to both Committees.

These Committees are concerned chiefly with implementing the proposals for the approved outline planning scheme for their areas. A major part of the work of the Town Planning staff is, therefore, concerned with the investigation and recommendation of planning applications, their presentation for consideration by these Committees, and, in the case of the Blantyre/Limbe Committee, the implementation of the Committee's decisions.

In 1949 the Blantyre/Limbe area was declared to be a Planning Area and in 1950 a Planning Committee, including in its membership representatives of the European, Asian and African communities, was appointed. The outline planning scheme prepared by the Committee was approved by the Governor in Council in 1951, and has been further implemented during 1956 by the preparation of detailed layouts and demarcation of sites, including low density residential areas, road systems and the redevelopment of existing Government buildings.

There has been a marked increase in the amount of detailed layout work required during the year, particularly in the Soche High Density Residential Area, where a large Government building programme, started in 1955, continues.

Detailed housing layouts were prepared for development in this area involving, amongst other things, a special high density village layout and the Central Area layout, in both of which building has commenced; another for the area's light industrial zone was also prepared.

The High Density Residential Area is administered by the Soche Authority, a statutory body specially set up for that purpose. Land is available for considerable development in the Authority's area and already Government has let a contract for the erection of 806 houses of different types. Most of these houses are required for Government employees, but a fair proportion is being made available to employers of labour, either for renting on a monthly basis or by the purchase (over a period of time, if required) of a 99 year leasehold interest. Similar facilities are available to individual Africans. The most popular type is the detached three-roomed house and Government has therefore decided that all houses remaining to be built under the contract are to be of that type. Approval was given for the erection of a community welfare centre costing over £60,000; work on this started during the year.

Further detailed planning during the year took the form of industrial, residential and road layouts in areas zoned for the purpose under the outline scheme.

One major and two minor modifications to the outline planning scheme were approved and one minor modification rejected by the Governor in Council during the year. The major modification involved the re-routing of a proposed circular road in the Blantyre/Limbe area.

Applications for private development in the Blantyre/Limbe area again showed a marked increase over the previous year, amounting to 556 as against 482 in 1955. In general the standard of building has distinctly improved. It is of interest to note that the most marked increase has been in the demand for flat sites and also that building construction is now being generally undertaken throughout the rainy season as well as the dry season.

The outline planning scheme for Lilongwe was approved by the Governor in Council in August, 1955, and is being implemented by the preparation of detailed layouts and the demarcation of sites for low density residential, shopping and industrial purposes.

The Lilongwe High Density area at "Falls Estate" is being developed and the Government housing programme for 215 African houses is being implemented.

During the year some 76 applications for planning permission were considered as against 97 in 1955 and it is encouraging to observe that the standard of building is good.

In October, 1955, a Planning Area for Zomba was gazetted and a Planning Committee appointed; during 1956 a draft outline planning

scheme was prepared. Building has already started in the medium density residential layout. A detailed layout has been prepared for the first stage of a high density residential area and building is to commence in the near future.

During the year some 37 applications for planning permission were considered.

The outline planning scheme for Mzuzu, where the Provincial Headquarters, Northern Province, was transferred during 1955, was accepted that year by all interested parties. Development has been taking place in accordance with the scheme and African housing erected in the high density layout. A layout for the first and second stages of the new shopping area has also been prepared.

Planning advice was also given to smaller centres, such as Mzimba, Karonga and Nkata Bay in the Northern Province, Mponela in the Central Province, and Port Herald, Chikwawa, Mlanje and Cholo in the Southern Province.

SOCIAL WELFARE

There is no Department of Social Welfare in Nyasaland and the widespread and differing forms of social welfare work, which are at present undertaken, are included in the activities of various Government Departments, Missions and voluntary organizations. Problems of social welfare are necessarily more complex in the Southern Province with its rapidly increasing African urban population, concentrated to a large extent in the Blantyre/Limbe area. To meet the needs of this urban population a Social Welfare Advisory Committee for the Southern Province was constituted in 1950, consisting of officials and non-officials. The Committee is charged with co-ordinating the activities of Government and voluntary agents in the field of social welfare; in addition, it acts as an advisory body to Government on policy for the area and makes recommendations on any immediate action necessary. District Welfare Committees also function in various Districts in the Southern Province.

A female Social Welfare Officer, attached to the office of the Provincial Commissioner, Southern Province, is responsible for the supervision and initiation of social welfare work of various kinds, though her primary interest is among African women and the supervision of African community workers.

Towards the end of the year a start was made on the £60,000 African Welfare Centre in the Soche High Density Residential Area near the Blantyre/Limbe Township. £40,000 was provided from Colonial Development and Welfare funds for this project, the balance being met by the Native Development and Welfare Fund. When completed the Centre will include a full-size hall suitable for theatrical

and cinema performances and for large public meetings, rooms for smaller meetings and study groups, a library, a soft drinks bar, a heavy crafts room and a light crafts room, as well as accommodation for a pre- and post-natal clinic. The Centre is for the use not only of Africans living in the high density residential area but also of Africans from the surrounding areas.

The Ndirande Welfare Club, Blantyre, was opened by His Excellency the Governor in October, 1956. This club for Africans provides an excellent example of self-help as, though supported by Government grants and a loan, the major contribution came from its own members who not only provided cash, but materials, skilled artisans and labour as well. The club buildings are spacious and well-designed and the club has its own playing fields in the course of construction.

Scouting and Guiding continued to appeal to the imagination of the youth of Nyasaland and 1956 saw considerable increases in the memberships of both movements, which are of great value to young people and especially to those attending schools and institutions. Boy Scout Groups totalled 82 with a membership of 2,583; Girl Guide membership reached the total of 2,017. Both movements are now benefiting from the rising standard of education; as it continues to rise so will the ability of their members to assimilate instruction increase. The formation of local associations has done much to increase the scope of the Boy Scout organization in Nyasaland and another interesting development has been the introduction of a training course for leper Scouts. One such course was held during 1956 at Utale in the Southern Province; 14 Scouts from three leprosariums attended. Advance preparations were started during 1956 for the Protectorate celebrations in connection with the Centenary in 1957 of the birth of Lord Baden-Powell. In addition, the movement hopes to send a delegation to attend the World Jamboree to be held in Great Britain next year. During 1956 the Girl Guide Association sent a delegation to the Commonwealth Conference held in Southern Rhodesia. The visit of Lady Baden-Powell to the Protectorate at the end of the year was a great encouragement to both movements.

The Boys' Brigade, attached to the Presbyterian Churches in the Protectorate, continued its good work in the training of boys in Christian character and self-reliance.

A number of voluntary societies, such as the Nyasaland Council of Women, the Women's Institutes and the Children's Society, undertook social welfare activities in many spheres. In 1951 a local committee of the British Empire Society for the Blind was set up and the work already done for the blind by the South African General Mission continues to receive recognition and financial assistance from the Government. Two African teachers are now training at Bwana Mkubwa in Northern Rhodesia and during 1956 two Europeans from the South African General Mission's Port Herald School for the Blind visited

Bwana Mkubwa. There are two schools for the blind in Nyasaland at present and the Society is endeavouring to establish others in conjunction with the Missions.

The British Empire Service League continued to watch the interests of ex-servicemen of all races and was able to assist in cases of need.

The Nyasaland Branch of the Red Cross Society made steady progress during the year, and many of its activities were expanded. In 1955 an acre of land situated between Limbe and Blantyre, adjacent to the Federal Government Group Hospital, was purchased for a new Branch Headquarters, the building of which is scheduled to commence at the beginning of the next dry season. Membership has risen with the formation of one new division in the Central Province. In addition, 14 Junior Links of the Branch are now in existence, representing an increase of three over the 1955 number. Interest in the Junior Red Cross remained keen. Medical institutions continued to receive comforts from members, including such items as bed linen, mattresses, baby clothes, patients' clothing, maternity jackets and pullovers. Baby clinics were held regularly at Limbe and Blantyre. Diversional therapy by members of the Branch continued in the hospitals at Zomba, Lilongwe and Mzimba.

A meeting was held in Blantyre in October under the chairmanship of His Excellency the Governor to consider a proposal that a branch of the St. John's Ambulance Brigade should be established in the Protectorate. The meeting was in favour of the proposal and formal approval to its establishment by the Central African Commandery was given in December.

Towards the end of the year a branch of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals was established in Blantyre.

Juvenile delinquency is not at present a great problem in Nyasaland. Probationary work is governed by the Probation of Offenders Ordinance, under which a Principal Probation Officer and additional voluntary probation officers are appointed. The post of Principal Probation Officer is at present held by the Welfare Officer attached to the office of the Provincial Commissioner, Southern Province. The number of juveniles before the courts in 1956 was 92 as compared with 86 in 1955.

Chapter 8

Legislation

TWENTY-THREE Ordinances were enacted during 1956. Most of these Ordinances amended earlier legislation. The Townships (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 11 of 1956) was perhaps the most important and it was passed in consequence of the amalgamation of the Blantyre and Limbe Townships during the year. The amendments made enable greater powers to be exercised in local affairs by the Council of the combined Township, and free the Council from certain aspects of strict control exercised by the Governor-in-Council over the activities of smaller Township Councils. Another Ordinance conferring powers upon Town Councils is the Townships (Public and Private Streets) Ordinance (No. 13 of 1956) regulating the making, repair and acquisition of streets within their areas.

The Estate Duty (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 18 of 1956) introduced new and considerably reduced rates of estate duty. In particular, estates in Nyasaland of under £2,000 are now free of duty under these provisions, whilst the maximum rate is now 10 per cent. on estates of over £300,000.

An amendment made by Ordinance No. 21 of 1956 to the Africans on Private Estates Ordinance, 1952, provides that no person may acquire the status of a "resident African" upon a private estate after 18th July, 1956. This will assist in bringing about progressive reduction in the numbers of Africans living upon such estates and paying rent to the estate-owner for their holdings.

Two hundred and one Government Notices were published during the year, containing subsidiary legislation in various forms. A considerable number of these were by-laws, issued by District Councils under the Local Government (District Councils) Ordinance, 1953, and by other local bodies. The Police Rules were replaced by G.N. 151 of 1956, and a new consolidated electricity tariff introduced for townships by G.N. 121 of 1956. In addition, new Standing Orders for the Legislative Council were prepared and published during the year.

Chapter 9

Justice and Police

JUSTICE

THE Courts of the Protectorate consist of the High Court, with jurisdiction over all persons and over all matters in the Protectorate, and Courts subordinate thereto. The constitution, duties and functions of Native Courts are explained later in this chapter.

Subordinate courts are nominally of the first, second, third and fourth class with jurisdiction over all persons. Courts of the first class are held by Provincial Commissioners and at Blantyre, Limbe, Lilongwe, Cholo, Mlanje and Zomba by Resident Magistrates who are qualified lawyers. The second, third and fourth class courts are presided over by the District Commissioners, Assistant District Commissioners and cadets respectively of each district.

The Criminal Procedure Code confers on subordinate courts a limited jurisdiction. Courts of the first and second class may try offenders for any offence under the Penal Code or any other law, other than treason, instigating invasion, misprision of treason, murder and manslaughter or attempts to commit or aiding, abetting, counselling or procuring the commission of such offences; but any sentence of more than twelve months' imprisonment by a first class court and six months' imprisonment by a second class court is subject to confirmation by the High Court. The sentences, which may be imposed by a court of the third class, are limited to six months and that of the fourth class to one month. The graver crimes are tried by the High Court after a preliminary inquiry before a subordinate court. In this connection instructions have recently been given to prosecuting officers to ensure that charges of rape are to be tried only by the High Court.

In civil matters, courts of the first class and second class have jurisdiction in all matters in which the amount or value in dispute does not exceed £200 and £100 respectively. Courts of the third and fourth class have similar jurisdiction to a maximum of £25.

In all cases, civil and criminal, to which Africans are parties, every court is guided by native law so far as it is applicable and is not repugnant to justice and morality or inconsistent with any Order in Council or Ordinance, or any Regulation or Rule made under any Order in Council or Ordinance. Each court decides such cases according to substantial justice without undue regard to technicalities of procedure and without undue delay.

The High Court may call for the records of all courts subordinate to itself to satisfy itself on the legality and propriety of the proceedings and sentence.

Appeals from subordinate courts in civil and criminal matters lie to the High Court. Appeals from the High Court in civil and criminal matters lie to the Federal Supreme Court.

The Chief Justice arranges regular criminal sessions three or four times a year and, so far as is possible, fixes the venue in or near the district in which the alleged crime has been committed. He also inspects the court books and files of subordinate courts. He is *ex-officio* Visiting Justice of the central and district prisons of the Protectorate.

The number of civil proceedings heard in the High Court during 1956 was 215, compared with 220 in 1955. The majority of these represented civil actions and applications for probate or letters of administration. Eleven were petitions for divorce or separation and 11 were petitions in bankruptcy.

Twenty-nine criminal cases were heard during 1956 by the High Court, compared with 50 in 1955. Of these, 19 concerned murder, 8 manslaughter, 1 attempted infanticide and 1 assault occasioning bodily harm. Of the 32 persons involved, 7 were acquitted, 17 were convicted either of the offences with which they were charged or of lesser offences, 1 person was found unfit to plead, 2 persons were found guilty but insane and a *Nolle Prosequi* was filed in respect of the remaining 5.

Sixty-nine appeals were heard, of which 52 were dismissed, 7 allowed, 4 allowed and sentences set aside and retrial ordered, 3 allowed and sentences reduced, 1 dismissed and conviction altered, and 2 against conviction and sentence dismissed against convictions but allowed against sentences, which were reduced.

In the Subordinate Courts a total of 2,537 civil cases were heard during the year, compared with 1,999 in 1955. The great majority were heard in the urban areas of Blantyre, Limbe, Zomba and Lilongwe. In addition, 14,392 persons were tried by the subordinate courts for criminal offences in 1956, compared with 15,499 in 1955. The offences are tabled below, together with comparative figures for the three previous years:—

PERSONS TRIED IN SUBORDINATE COURTS

	1953	1954	1955	1956
Attempted murder and suicide	1	—	—	7
Unlawful wounding	72	73	141	150
Rape	4	19	15	14
Other sexual offences	24	30	35	49
Assault occasioning actual bodily harm	163	175	319	208
Common assault	79	135	175	177
Simple larceny	481	614	869	752
Burglary, housebreaking, etc.	367	435	557	618
Larceny by servants	344	495	554	581
Receiving stolen goods	94	165	132	124

PERSONS TRIED IN SUBORDINATE COURTS—(Continued)

	1953	1954	1955	1956
False Pretences	64 ..	88 ..	123 ..	128
Arson	63 ..	77 ..	72 ..	96
Forgery	94 ..	184 ..	199 ..	160
Other offences under the Penal Code	817 ..	660 ..	917 ..	885
Leaving the Protectorate without a Pass	39 ..	41 ..	83 ..	11
Offences against the Native Employment Ordinance	30 ..	35 ..	57 ..	896
Native Tax Laws	4,930 ..	5,016 ..	4,884 ..	4,008
Game Laws	67 ..	82 ..	93 ..	17
Forest Laws	440 ..	288 ..	95 ..	85
Firearms Laws	135 ..	171 ..	218 ..	252
Public Health Laws	9 ..	24 ..	17 ..	15
Intoxicating Liquor	352 ..	483 ..	747 ..	550
Township Laws	269 ..	467 ..	795 ..	221
Epidemic and Contagious diseases ..	— ..	— ..	14 ..	—
Motor Traffic	410 ..	1,045 ..	1,702 ..	2,242
Diseases of Cattle	737 ..	7 ..	16 ..	2
Plant Diseases	180 ..	378 ..	113 ..	23
Witchcraft	52 ..	31 ..	25 ..	30
Public Roads	953 ..	528 ..	1,449 ..	1,108
Sanitary Boards	2 ..	11 ..	4 ..	11
Other Protectorate Legislation ..	1,127 ..	1,174 ..	989 ..	919
Offences against Native Law and Custom	2 ..	13 ..	90 ..	4
Offences against Federal Legislation	— ..	— ..	— ..	49
TOTALS	<u>12,401</u>	<u>12,944</u>	<u>15,499</u>	<u>14,392</u>

Of the 14,392 persons tried, 2,003 were acquitted or otherwise discharged; the remainder were convicted. Of those convicted 6,149 were sentenced to a fine or to imprisonment in default and paid the fine, 2,596 were similarly sentenced but were unable to pay the fine, 2,253 were sentenced to imprisonment without the option of a fine, 1 to whipping, 354 were discharged owing to their tender years or to the trivial nature of the offence and 175 were bound over.

Ninety-two juveniles came before the courts during 1956, compared with 86 in 1955. Generally speaking they were charged with petty theft. Thirty juveniles were committed to the approved school in 1956 as against 32 in 1955.

The Native Courts Ordinance, 1933, provides for the setting up of Native Courts under the jurisdiction of the Native Authorities. The courts are constituted in accordance with the native law or custom of the area in which they have jurisdiction, though the Provincial Commissioner may, with the approval of the Governor, prescribe the constitution of any Native Court or the order of precedence among the members thereof, or the powers and duties of any persons acting as assessors to any court in his Province. In accordance with custom no Chief sits alone to hear cases; he is aided by assessors who either sit by hereditary right or are selected on account of their special wisdom or aptitude. The composition of the courts is not laid down in the Ordinance nor in the court warrants. The court assessors receive a fixed salary from the Native Treasury.

The whole country is within the jurisdiction of Native Courts and the practice and procedure of these Courts is regulated in accordance with native law and custom, subject to any rules which may be made by the Governor. Warrants defining the jurisdiction and powers of the courts are issued by Provincial Commissioners.

In general the jurisdiction of Native Courts is limited to "cases and matters in which all the parties are Africans and the defendant was, at the time when the cause of the action arose, resident or being within the jurisdiction of the court." The purpose of the courts is to administer a justice which is understood and appreciated by Africans and is as far as possible in accordance with accepted native customs.

Native Courts may exercise criminal jurisdiction to the extent set out in their warrants and subject to the provisions of the Ordinance. Such jurisdiction extends to the hearing, trial and determination of all criminal charges and matters in which the complainant and the accused are Africans and the defendant is accused of having wholly or in part, within the jurisdiction of the court, committed, or been accessory to the committing of an offence. Native Courts have no jurisdiction to try offences in consequence of which death is alleged to have occurred or which are punishable under any law with death or imprisonment for life, nor may they try cases in connection with marriage, other than marriage contracted under or in accordance with Mohammedan or native law or custom, except where both parties are of the same religion and the claim is one for dowry only.

Native Courts have and may exercise civil jurisdiction to the extent set out in their warrants and subject to the provisions of the Native Courts Ordinance. Civil proceedings, relating to immovable property, must be taken in the Native Court within the area of whose jurisdiction the property is situated.

The powers of each court are set out in the warrant establishing it. Courts are divided into three classes as follows:—

<i>Class A</i>	Fine not exceeding £25. Imprisonment not exceeding six months.
<i>Class B</i>	Fine not exceeding £10. Imprisonment not exceeding three months.
<i>Class C</i>	Fine not exceeding £5. Imprisonment not exceeding one month.

In cases of a criminal nature a Native Court may impose a fine, or may order imprisonment, or both fine and imprisonment. Orders for compensation may also be made.

Provincial and District Commissioners have in the first instance complete powers of review and revision over Native Courts' cases and appeals against orders or decisions of the Native Court go either to the Native Appeal Court, where there is one, or direct to the District Commissioners and thereafter to the Provincial Commissioners. Appeals from Native Courts lie ultimately to the High Court.

The African urban courts, started in Blantyre and Zomba in 1951, continued to function throughout the year. Each court has a panel of members of whom three are chosen for each sitting. These urban courts deal with petty cases in the townships and also with matters involving African customary law. In the case of the Blantyre Court, arrangements are made for it to sit at Limbe as required.

A revised memorandum on Native Courts was published in 1952 and a Chinyanja version of the memorandum, which is designed to assist Administrative Officers and others whose work is connected with Native Courts, was completed and published in 1954.

The total number of cases heard by Native Courts in 1956 was 73,958. Of these, 42,931 were cases of a criminal nature and 31,027 were cases of a civil nature, although as stated above, the distinction between the two is not sharply drawn. Punishments awarded to the 45,855 persons convicted of criminal offences included imprisonment (912) and fines (41,526). As in previous years, a large number of the cases heard related to marriage and the payment of compensation in cases of adultery.

POLICE

The Nyasaland Police Force is constituted by the Police Ordinance (Cap. 92) and is responsible for the maintenance of law and order throughout the Protectorate. There are no regional or Native Authority Police Forces.

The Commissioner of Police is Chief Immigration Officer for Nyasaland and Chief Passport Control Officer. He is also Registrar for Aliens and Registrar of Firearms.

The establishment of the Force was increased during 1956 to 1,453 and at the end of the year its actual strength was 1,444, made up of the following ranks:—

			<i>Establishment</i>		<i>Strength</i>
Gazetted Officers	..	..	38	..	37
Inspectorate	..	..	103	..	91
Other Ranks	..	..	1,312	..	1,316
TOTAL	..		1,453		1,444

In addition there were 118 civilians employed by the Force at the end of the year.

The racial composition of the Force was as follows:—

		<i>Europeans</i>		<i>Asians</i>		<i>Africans</i>
Gazetted Officers	..	37	..	—	..	—
Inspectorate	..	51	..	2	..	38
Other Ranks	..	—	..	—	..	1,316
Civilian Staff	..	14	..	1	..	103
TOTAL	..	102		3		1,457

The Force is organized in three territorial Police Divisions, corresponding in area to the three Provinces of the Protectorate. The Southern Division is commanded by an Assistant Commissioner, the Central and Northern Divisions being commanded by a Senior Superintendent and a Superintendent, respectively. Police Headquarters at Zomba comprises the Administrative Branch, the C.I.D., the Special Branch, the Police Training School, the Communications Branch and the Police Mobile Force. The headquarters of the Special Constabulary is in Blantyre. There are 22 police stations and 21 police posts in the Protectorate.

The rapid expansion of the Force since 1953 has placed additional responsibilities on the Gazetted Officers and the Inspectorate. Of the 37 Gazetted Officers, 29 have had previous experience in other Colonial or British Police Forces. Of the 51 expatriate members of the Inspectorate, 23 have served in other Colonial or British Police Forces.

Eighteen Inspectors, Grade II, were appointed during the year. Recruitment of Grade II Inspectors is normally undertaken by the Crown Agents for Overseas Governments and Administrations. Such officers usually undergo a course of training in a district police training centre in the United Kingdom before taking up their appointments. Recruitment for the rank and file is undertaken locally. A constable's basic training course is of six months' duration and covers all aspects of police work. One hundred and thirty-four constables were recruited during the year and underwent training in the Police Training School. In addition, there were 110 recruits in training at the beginning of 1956. One hundred and twenty-three men were posted to stations on completion of their training. Sixteen recruits were discharged during training, chiefly on grounds of unsuitability. One hundred and five men were still under training at the end of the year.

In addition to the recruits' training courses, 5 Gazetted Officers, 61 members of the Inspectorate and 200 other ranks attended various courses in the Training School, including refresher courses, promotion and specialist training courses. Five Gazetted Officers and 6 members of the Inspectorate attended courses of instruction in the United Kingdom (other than the basic training course given to newly-appointed Inspectors). These included 3 African Sub-Inspectors, one qualifying as a Bandmaster at the Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall, the other two attending a non-gazetted police officers' course at the Hendon Police College.

A total of 26,066 offences was handled by the Police during the year. Penal Code cases increased by 8 per cent. over the 1955 figures, statutory offences by 5 per cent. over the same period. Comparative figures for cases reported in recent years are shown in the following table:—

	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
Murder	62	68	63	69	64
Burglary, housebreaking, store-breaking, etc.	1,725	1,863	2,075	2,134	2,288
Theft	3,449	3,483	3,618	3,856	4,432
Arson	289	348	369	263	386
Other offences against the Penal Code	2,913	3,395	3,678	4,467	4,456
Statutory offences	6,422	7,740	8,922	13,794	14,440
TOTAL ..	<u>14,860</u>	<u>16,897</u>	<u>18,725</u>	<u>24,583</u>	<u>26,066</u>

C.I.D. Headquarters comprises a criminal record office, a photographic section, the Central Firearms Registry and the Federal Aliens Registry. There are 53,344 sets of fingerprints filed in the fingerprint bureau, which forms part of the criminal record office. During the year 6,875 sets of fingerprints were received in the bureau for search; 1,677 were identified as belonging to persons with criminal records, and of these, 526 had three or more previous convictions.

Particulars of 7,435 registered firearms are recorded in the Central Firearms Registry. Six hundred and forty-two new firearms were registered during the year and 322 certificates were issued for the importation of firearms and ammunition.

One thousand and forty-five aliens are registered in the Aliens Registry.

One Divisional Headquarters and five police stations are on the Very High Frequency wireless network linked to Police Headquarters. Two Divisional Headquarters and five stations comprise the High Frequency network link with Police Headquarters. Twelve motor vehicles, equipped with Very High Frequency radio-telephony facilities, operated from stations. Mobile High Frequency communications were also available. The police wireless organization handled a total of 22,813 written messages during the year.

The Force transport fleet consisted of 49 vehicles. In addition, 18 motor cycles were employed on traffic patrol duty throughout the Protectorate, chiefly in the Southern Province.

The number of traffic accidents continued to rise. This was to some extent attributable to the increasing number of motor vehicles registered in the Protectorate. The following table shows the number of motor traffic accidents and the number of accident casualties:—

	1954	1955	1956
Number of accidents	829	922	1,192
Number of persons killed ..	50	35	54
Number of persons injured ..	420	545	488

The police are responsible for administering the Federal Immigration Act. For the convenience of the public, Immigration Headquarters

are at Blantyre. Passport control, however, remains a territorial commitment. During the year 707 new passports were issued, 379 were renewed and 1,064 passport endorsements and additions were made. One hundred and fifty-four letters of identity and travel documents, other than passports, were issued. One hundred and sixty-seven visas were issued.

The Police Band maintained a high standard of performance.

The Force was inspected during the year by the Deputy Inspector General of Colonial Police Forces.

Chapter 10

Public Utilities and Public Works

PUBLIC UTILITIES

THE only public utility services operated in Nyasaland are the electricity and water supplies of the main townships, Blantyre/Limbe, Zomba and Lilongwe, and of a few District headquarters.

Under the federal constitution electricity is a federal responsibility, but while in 1956 the Federal Government was financially responsible for this service, the Nyasaland Government continued to be administratively responsible. A shadow electricity supply commission was set up by the Federal Minister of Power during the year and was charged with the task of making arrangements for the establishment of a statutory commission under the aegis of the Federal Government.

During the year no new electrical plant was brought into operation by the Department of Electrical Services, but output from the existing stations increased considerably, as is shown in the following table:—

	<i>Blantyre</i>	<i>Zomba</i>	<i>Lilongwe</i>	<i>Total</i>
Units sent out in 1955 ..	4,894,880	1,339,470	526,050	6,766,400
Units sent out in 1956 ..	6,501,720	1,731,841	675,104	8,908,665
Increase in 1956 ..	1,606,840	392,371	149,054	2,142,265
% increase over 1955 ..	32.8%	29.2%	22.1%	32%

The district plant at Fort Johnston, which was commissioned in December, 1955, sent out 21,287 units in its first complete year of operation.

The increase in demand for electricity is shown in the following table of peak loads at stations:—

	<i>Blantyre</i>	<i>Zomba</i>	<i>Lilongwe</i>
Peak load, 1955 ..	1,320 Kw ..	335 Kw ..	144 Kw
Peak load, 1956 ..	2,000 Kw ..	540 Kw ..	218 Kw
Present station capacity	2,500 Kw ..	850 Kw ..	255 Kw

All stations have plant of adequate capacity at present and the plans already prepared should ensure that increased capacities will be available when needed to meet the rapidly-increasing loads resulting from industrial development, extensions of supply to tea estates and the like, and from Government's policy of building all-electric staff houses. The peak load at Blantyre was increased at the end of the year by the new cement factory, which added approximately 500 Kw to the demand.

In Blantyre, another 2,500 Kw generating set, which will increase the capacity of the station to 7,000 Kw, has been completed and will be commissioned early in 1957. The increase in demand from Zomba will be met next year by a high voltage line from Blantyre.

As regards the distribution systems of the various stations, the major developments of the year were the completion of an 11,000V line to Blantyre airport and another 11,000V line to serve the tea estates in the Cholo area. The latter line was completed and made alive as far as Cholo District Headquarters by December, 1956, and the branches to the various estates will be completed in 1957.

The amount of new distribution systems built at various stations during the year is as follows:—

		11 KV overhead Yards		11 KV cable Yards		LV overhead Yards
Blantyre	.. ..	43,186	.. ..	1,113	.. ..	17,841
Zomba	.. ..	1,111	.. ..	—	.. ..	3,307
Lilongwe	.. ..	1,255	.. ..	—	.. ..	1,800
TOTAL	.. ..	<u>45,552</u>		<u>1,113</u>		<u>22,948</u>

The number of new substations added to the system during the year was as follows:—

Blantyre	..	25	Zomba	..	4	Lilongwe	..	7
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During the year the Nyasaland Government decided to subsidize electricity for a period of four years at a cost not exceeding £20,000 per annum. The result in 1956 was a reduction in electricity charges amounting to 10 per cent. on each consumer account.

During the financial year 1955/56, £63,345 was spent by the Nyasaland Government on the development of reticulated water supplies in the Protectorate.

Approval was given in 1955 for the extension of the pumping and purification plants supplying the Blantyre/Limbe area to allow for increased consumption to a level of one million gallons per day. Work on this extension proceeded during the year and it is anticipated that it will come into operation early in 1957. Arrangements for doubling the capacity of the service reservoir were also put in hand. Further extensions to the Blantyre/Limbe Scheme were considered and investigations included that into the possibility of pumping from the Shire River, a distance of 20 miles.

At Lilongwe, the installation of plant to pump water from the Lilongwe River through rapid gravity filters to high level service reservoirs continued. Delays were experienced in the delivery of the pumping plant for Stage 2 of the scheme and the scheme is not expected to be completed until early in 1957.

Work on the installation of the new reticulation for Zomba continued and the laying of mains and erection of service reservoirs neared completion. Construction work on the purification plant was put in hand. The mains have been designed for one million gallons per day and consideration was given to extending the purification plant and service reservoirs to the same figure from the half million gallons per day which was the original provision at this stage.

The Nkata Bay scheme was completed during the year and work progressed on the Kota Kota, Chikwawa, Chileka extension, Port Herald and Mzuzu schemes. Work will commence early in 1957 on the schemes for Dowa and Rumpi. Five outstation schemes were completed or put in hand during the year. Preliminary investigations were carried out in respect of new schemes at Salima, Ncheu, Kasungu and Karonga and it is anticipated that tenders for at least three of these schemes will be invited during 1957.

The design of the new reticulation to serve the Soche High Density Residential Area, which was commenced by consultants in 1955, was completed during the year and a contract was placed towards the end of 1956.

Contract work commenced on the sewerage reticulation for the Soche High Density Residential Area and the Group Hospital, Blantyre. It is expected that the sewerage reticulation for the Zomba High Density Residential Area will be undertaken during the next financial year. Consideration was given to providing a section of the Lilongwe High Density Residential Area also with sewerage reticulation.

Approval for the construction of a temporary low-level earth dam wall across the Shire River at Liwonde was given late in 1955 and construction work was undertaken by contract and completed during 1956. It has now been decided to widen the dam wall to allow it to be used as a river crossing for vehicular traffic. The principal objects of damming the Shire River are to control the cyclical fall in the Lake level, to facilitate site investigations for a permanent barrage at Matope and to make possible the carrying out of surveys and pilot irrigation schemes in the Lower Shire. The Consulting Engineers continued their investigations at Matope, on the Lake-shore and in the Lower River during the year.

PUBLIC WORKS

The Public Works Department is organized into six specialist branches, each subordinate to its branch head. The branches are: roads and airfields, buildings, water and sewerage, mechanical engineering, stores and transport, accounts and secretarial. The consolidation of the branches and the recruitment of European Staff to fill vacancies progressed during the year and, in particular, three vacancies in the Roads Branch design section were filled.

It was again necessary to concentrate a considerable portion of the Department's works capacity on the construction of staff houses. 689 African quarters were constructed departmentally at various stations. In the Soche High Density Residential Area, situated between Blantyre and Limbe, over 450 houses were completed on contract by the end of 1956. 72 European houses and 28 flats were built during the year.

Of the contracts supervised on behalf of the Federal Government on an agency agreement, the European Primary School, Blantyre, and the Asian School, Limbe, were completed and work proceeded on the Blantyre Group Hospital, the first stage of which, providing for a working unit of 236 beds with the necessary administrative buildings, will be completed in 1957. Other Federal Government contracts supervised during the year included Asian schools at Blantyre, Zomba and Lilongwe. Territorial Government contracts supervised included the Legislative Council Chamber at Zomba and a Police Station at Chikwawa, both of which were completed, as well as District Offices at Chikwawa, Port Herald and Lilongwe, and an African Primary School, a Welfare Community Centre and an Artisan Training Centre, all in the Soche High Density Residential Area.

By direct labour the Department carried out a number of important building projects, including a Headquarters for the Geological Survey Department at Zomba and development works at Nkata Bay and Mzuzu.

Chapter 11

Communications

SHIPPING

NYASALAND is served by the port of Beira in Portuguese East Africa through which the great majority of its imports and exports must pass. Thanks to the efforts of the Beira Imports Advisory Committee and the Phasing Secretariat there was again no serious congestion in the port during 1956, and the clearance of goods proceeded smoothly throughout the year. An estimated 2,874,560 tons of cargo were handled during the year, compared with 3,046,228 tons in 1955. Traffic was well balanced, there being 1,361,077 tons landed and 1,513,483 tons shipped.

ROADS

Nyasaland has a wide network of roads. The spinal column of the system is the route from the Portuguese border on the Ruo River, near Mlanje, northwards through Blantyre, Lilongwe and Mzimba to join the Tanganyika and Northern Rhodesia system at Tunduma. Most of the other roads of importance link this north-south route with the railway and the Lake in the east, and Northern Rhodesia and Portuguese East Africa in the west.

The 1955-1958 programme of road construction, financed partly from Colonial Development and Welfare funds and partly from Protectorate funds, continued to be implemented during the year. The total mileage of roads in the Protectorate is 5,152, of which 2,695 miles are maintained by the Public Works Department, 2,418 miles by the Administration and other departments, and 39 miles by Town Councils.

During the year the Federal Government continued to be financially responsible for the maintenance and construction of inter-territorial roads. These run from Limbe northwards through Lilongwe to Tunduma in Tanganyika Territory; from Fort Manning through Lilongwe to Salima; from Liwonde through Fort Johnston to the border of Portuguese East Africa near Namwera; from Mwanza on the Portuguese East Africa border through Chileka, Blantyre and Limbe to the Portuguese East Africa border beyond Mlanje. The total mileage of these roads is 1,074.

Traffic densities continued to increase during the year, especially in the Southern and Central Provinces. The maintenance of some of the more heavily trafficked earth roads becomes more difficult each year. During 1956 the additional road maintenance plant ordered in 1955

was brought into service. Tractor-towed bush drags were introduced to replace hand labour during the dry season and 11 new mechanical graders were delivered during the year. The cost of maintaining earth roads varies considerably according to traffic densities; some roads are maintained for as little as £5 per mile each year, while others may require up to £80 per year for each mile maintained.

Plant for three departmental bridge units, one for each Province, was sanctioned and many of the items arrived during the year. Additional staff for road supervision and maintenance and for the bridge units was also approved and recruitment was put in hand.

The departmental road construction unit continued operations in the Lower River Districts and a further 8 miles of secondary gravel road were completed during the year, bringing the total so far constructed to 37 miles. A further 16 miles of road were formed but not gravelled and a 100-foot span Bailey Bridge was erected across the Nkombezi wa Fodya River in the Chikwawa District.

In the Northern Province the construction of a new road from Mzuzu to Nkata Bay continued under the direction of the Provincial Engineer. Elsewhere throughout the Protectorate the general road-maintenance programme was combined with minor improvement works and the replacement of low-strength bridges.

During the year contracts were placed on behalf of the Federal Government for the construction of the Zomba/Liwonde road, the Lilongwe/Fort Jameson road, bridgeworks on the Mlanje/Portuguese East Africa border road, and for the reconstruction of some lengths of road in and near Lilongwe Township. Territorial Government contracts were placed for further bridgeworks on the Chitala/Benga road, the reconstruction of the Lilongwe Township roads and harbour installations at Nkata Bay.

Contract works continued during the year were:—

(i) The reconstruction of the Lilongwe/Salima road at an estimated cost of £600,000.

(ii) The reconstruction of that part of the main road which lies between Zomba and the airfield turn-off; the airfield road; and some three miles of road within the Zomba Township. The total estimated cost of this project is £54,000.

(iii) The construction of bridging on the first section of the Chitala/Benga road at an estimated cost of £50,600.

The Roads and Airfields Branch of the Public Works Department continued to be responsible as agents for the Federal Government for the maintenance and improvement of airfields and a contract was placed for, and construction began on, strengthening and lengthening the runways at Chileka Airport, Blantyre. Tenders were also invited for a new airport at Lilongwe.

The training of African Engineering Assistants continued during the year and the first intake of students sat for the first-year National Examination in Highway Engineering and Surveying in November, 1956.

VEHICLES

At the end of 1956 there were 3,895 private motor-cars registered in the Protectorate, compared with 3,537 in 1955; 3,213 goods vehicles (of which 195 were owned by Africans) compared with 3,114 in 1955; and 495 agricultural tractors, compared with 369 in 1955.

A fleet of 81 motor omnibuses, operated by the Nyasaland Transport Company, covered all parts of the Protectorate. 1,905,767 passengers were carried and 1,755,216 miles operated, compared with 1,701,482 passengers and 1,536,875 miles in 1955. Fares remained unaltered at 1½d per mile.

The increase in building and other constructional works made a big demand on local transport but all requirements were adequately met. Motor fuel supplies were adequate and the distribution organization worked smoothly. Petrol in the Protectorate was relatively cheap, being 2s-8d ex-pump at Blantyre and Limbe, with prices at other centres reflecting the added haulage costs.

Chapter 12

Press, Broadcasting, Films and Government Information Services

PRESS

PRINTING and the production of reading matter were among the earliest "civilized" developments in Nyasaland. As far back as 1878 the Blantyre Mission of the Church of Scotland brought out a hand press and produced a monthly journal, *Life and Work in Central Africa*, which is still published. The Universities' Mission to Central Africa has produced a journal, *Nyasa News*, at its headquarters on Likoma Island in Lake Nyasa since 1893.

The first regular newspaper to be produced was the *British Central Africa Gazette*, which first appeared in Zomba on 1st January, 1894. The first issue was apparently set up over the Christmas holidays in 1893, for several copies escaped the proof reader with the date 1st December, 1893, on two pages and 1st January, 1894, on the remainder. The printers were Yaos who had been trained by the Missions and one or two are said to have come from Zanzibar.

The *British Central Africa Gazette* was the official medium for the publication of notices, regulations and announcements of the Administration, but it also carried a wealth of material in the form of reports from the districts, accounts by travellers, advice on agriculture and local news, which now present a very vivid picture of life in those days in Central Africa. Local merchants were quick to take advantage of the *Gazette* for their advertisements, one of them reading simply "For Sale. A quantity of Round and Flat Iron." The German Administration in German East Africa also published its regulations in German in the *Gazette*. The "week-end" wars against the slave raiders are described in great detail and the paper is generally a happy hunting ground for the historian. In 1907 the name of the paper was changed to the *Nyasaland Government Gazette*, when the Order in Council of that year changed the name of the territory from the British Central Africa Protectorate to the Nyasaland Protectorate.

The *Government Gazette* of today is published fortnightly by the Government Printer at Zomba and contains only official announcements and notices, Ordinances and such matters as have to be published by law for official information.

The first independent newspaper was the *Central African Planter*, published monthly from September, 1895, at Songani near Zomba. Its first editorial apologized for the appearance of a fourth paper in

the Protectorate and hoped that people would not think the field over-crowded. The other papers were *Life and Work*, *Nyasa News* and the *British Central Africa Gazette*. As the telegraph line from Salisbury to Blantyre was completed about this time, the *Central African Planter* was able to publish world news and thus to satisfy a real need.

In 1897 this paper became a weekly and changed its name to the *Central African Times* and later, when the name of the Protectorate was changed, it became the *Nyasaland Times* of today. It is now published on Tuesdays and Fridays. Newcomers to the Territory are often puzzled by references to something having been "in last week's CAT" until they learn that the *Times* still carries as its nickname the initials of its predecessor. The *Nyasaland Times* is published by the Blantyre Printing and Publishing Company Ltd. of Blantyre. It reaches the European, Asian and educated members of the African community.

The *Rhodesian Herald*, published in Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia, circulates widely in Nyasaland, despite the fact that its news is often a day or two old by the time it is read.

The African community is provided for by an official weekly newspaper, an independent weekly paper and a number of Mission journals with Chinyanja as the main vernacular. The Government-sponsored African Book Centre, with headquarters at Blantyre/Limbe, supplies books at low rates to Africans.

The official vernacular newspaper, *Msimbi*, (The Relater or Recorder of News), has been published weekly by the Nyasaland Information Services in Zomba since October, 1949. It contains local and world news, illustrations and advertisements. It has a large circulation within Nyasaland and it also reaches Nyasaland Africans in South and East Africa and in the Rhodesias. Its predecessors were *Zoona* (The Truth), published by the *Nyasaland Times* before the war and *Nkhani za Nyasaland*, a free official weekly news-sheet which replaced *Zoona* at the beginning of the war to make reliable information freely available to the people.

African interest in *Msimbi* has, in the main, grown steadily since its inception. In 1953, however, as a result of the appearance of *Bwalo la Nyasaland*, an independent weekly newspaper published in Salisbury for circulation in Nyasaland, sales of *Msimbi* fell temporarily from 8,200 to 7,200 copies per week, but in the intervening years the paper has gradually recaptured its popularity, and by the end of 1956 the circulation had attained a figure of just under 9,000. This encouraging trend is due in part to the new format adopted for the paper in 1955, which increased the size of the issue and enhanced its public appeal with an improved method of presentation and printing. A further increase in size to 12 pages in 1956 has also helped to promote and enlarge its distribution to the present figure. In view of the fact that the paper is passed from hand to hand and the news contained in it passed verbally to illiterates, it is estimated that, in all, the paper reaches a total of some 45,000 Africans.

An Advisory Committee under the Chairmanship of the Secretary for African Affairs, and composed of four unofficial members of Legislative Council, assists and advises the Editor of *Msimbi* in the production and publication of the paper. The annual subscription for the paper remains at 4s.

Other vernacular newspapers in circulation are the *African Weekly* and the *Bantu Mirror*, both published in Southern Rhodesia; the *Nkhani za Dowa*, a district newspaper of the Central Province; the *African*, a bi-monthly paper published by the White Fathers' Mission at Likuni, near Lilongwe, similar in make-up to *Msimbi* but with more accent on mission news; *Mthenga* (The Messenger), published every two months by the Dutch Reformed Church Mission; *Lipenga* (The Trumpeter), published every two months by the Zambesi Industrial Mission; and *Uthenga* (The Message), published every two months by the Seventh Day Adventist Mission. In addition, one or two estates produce news sheets on duplicators.

The *Nyasaland Journal*, the organ of the Nyasaland Society, is published twice a year and contains papers on matters of social, cultural, historical and scientific interest in the Protectorate.

The *Nyasaland Farmer and Forester* is a quarterly journal which first made its appearance during 1953. It publishes material dealing with agricultural, veterinary and forestry affairs.

The weekly *Information Bulletin*, published by the Information Services in Zomba, continued to improve its circulation during the year. It now stands at a weekly figure of 10,000. The Bulletin contains news items and other factual reports of interest and is disseminated to addressees within the country, in neighbouring territories and in the United Kingdom. It is the object of the Bulletin to interpret and explain the policy of Government to the people through the medium of accurate news items and reports, while at the same time conveying some indication of the development and progress taking place within the Protectorate, to the neighbouring territories. Experience has shown that the Bulletin, which is issued free, is fulfilling a most useful purpose and is gaining a wide and interested public.

BROADCASTING

African broadcast programmes are received in Nyasaland from the Central African Broadcasting Station in Lusaka. Indian stations are received at good strength, probably because transmission from India has a comparatively short journey over land. The local Asian community are thus well served in their own languages. The B.B.C. Overseas programme is well received in the evenings and South African and Portuguese East Africa stations also come in strongly. Electrical disturbances are, however, fairly frequent during the rains.

Lusaka broadcasts in Chinyanja (the principal vernacular language in the Protectorate) are very popular and are listened to regularly by hundred, of African owners of cheap dry-battery receiving sets. A large number of these listeners correspond directly with the station. English programmes are also relayed and are listened to by the more educated element and often by others who have little or no command of English. Group wireless sets are available at various centres in Nyasaland, including African clubs and community halls, while the supply and distribution of "Saucepan" and Phillips dry-battery sets have been organized through commercial channels. It is estimated that at the end of the year there were over 10,000 of these cheap sets in the Protectorate in addition to the 4,000 sets registered with the Postmaster General.

Nyasaland has no immediate access to the air, and broadcasting material for transmission to the African community is telegraphed or airmailed on tape to Lusaka. The Chinyanja programmes, specially directed at the African population of Nyasaland, have in the past been compiled from material recorded by visiting teams of broadcasters from Lusaka. With the introduction of the two-channel broadcasting system at Lusaka earlier this year the time allocated to Nyasaland each week was extended to seven hours. The supply of programmes for this number of hours could not be maintained on the old basis of periodical tours, and in August permanent staff were posted to Zomba to open the recording studio and to ensure a regular flow of Nyasaland material for broadcasting from Lusaka. The recording studio is fully equipped with tape-recording facilities and the live material prepared includes talks, feature broadcasts, music and plays.

FILMS

The distribution of films for Africans is undertaken by Government Information Units; one of which is stationed at headquarters in Zomba, and the other in the Northern Province. The units showed films to 143,763 persons during the year and the headquarters unit travelled 7,852 miles in 35 weeks of the year. As the shows are almost all given in the open it is impossible for the units to go on tour during the rains. The films shown are mostly silent but a trained African commentator, by dint of much practice, puts words into the mouths of the actors through a microphone and loudspeaker system. During the dry season the shows are followed by a dance, the amplifier and record player providing the music and the generator providing lights in the arena. Such gatherings also present an opportunity to relay items of news to rural communities, thus enhancing the value of the unit as a peripatetic village news-carrier.

In addition to the two Government Units a number of mobile cinema units were successfully operated on circuit by the Agricultural Production and Marketing Board, the District Commissioners of Blantyre, Domasi and Kota Kota, and the Councils of Chiefs at Dowa

and Lilongwe. The films shown by these units combined education and entertainment value, and enjoyed a large measure of popularity with African audiences. During 1955 a third Government Unit was put into service; it functions in those remoter areas of the Central Province not served by District units. Substantial additions were made to the film library during 1956 and there is now a wide choice of films available to the rural units. It is estimated that these units showed films to a further 150,000 people during the year.

Despite careful maintenance of the cinema units, a number of mechanical breakdowns occurred, largely because the units had to travel continuously over rough roads. It was possible, however, to keep two of the three units regularly on the road throughout the year.

The film library of the Information Services now contains over 500 films and serves over 50 independently-owned projectors on estates and in factories, missions, schools and private homes. The main sources of supply are the Central Office of Information, which provides documentaries and *British News*, and the Central African Film Unit. Films are also purchased from the trade.

Several newsreel items were filmed during the year for the *Rhodesian Spotlight*, the newsreel produced by the Federal Information Department.

There are in the Protectorate three permanent cinemas which show films in English. These are situated at Blantyre and Limbe. In addition, four European clubs have their own projectors and hire films from commercial concerns in South Africa or Southern Rhodesia.

INFORMATION SERVICES

The reorganization of the information services in Nyasaland, consequent upon the establishment of a Federal Information Department in Salisbury two years ago, resulted in European information, tourism and photography becoming a Federal responsibility under the direction of the Federal Information Officer stationed in Zomba. At the same time the remaining functions of the former Nyasaland Department of Public Relations (including African information, publications, relations with the Press, film exhibiting, etc.) were taken over by the Nyasaland Information Services under an Information Officer. The benefits deriving from this division of responsibility became increasingly evident during 1956 and were reflected in the increased volume of news, both African and European, which was made available to the newspaper and broadcast network of the Federation, and the rapidly expanding projection of Nyasaland news and development to neighbouring territories and in the United Kingdom.

The Nyasaland Information Services, which replaced the former Department of Public Relations, have an establishment of 35, consisting of the Information Officer, two Assistants, two Cinema Officers, two Departmental Assistants, two sub-Editors for *Msimbi*, three Mobile Unit Operators, ten Clerks, one Announcer/Translator, five Drivers, four Messengers and three Mobile Unit Operator Assistants.

The functions of the Information Officer and his staff are to assist in interpreting the policy of Government to the people of the Protectorate, to act in an advisory and co-ordinating capacity for distributing information on the various development schemes, to keep in touch with public opinion, to publicize the territorial affairs of the Protectorate in Great Britain and elsewhere and to provide the public of the Protectorate with information about developments in Great Britain and various aspects of British life.

In the execution of these duties the Information Officer and his staff make use of the Press, the cinema, broadcasting, publications, photographs and personal contacts. An increasing interest is being taken in the affairs of the Protectorate by the Press of other countries and news items are supplied to the South African Press Association who distribute them to Reuter and agencies elsewhere. Bulletins of the London Press Service and Press releases from the Information Department of the Colonial Office are distributed locally. Supplies of literature are distributed as judiciously as possible to the many thousands of educated Africans who are eager for information and knowledge. Large numbers of British magazines are regularly sent to district headquarters where they are handed down through Native Authorities to individual Africans. These publications are in great demand and pass through many hands until they finally disintegrate through use. At many District headquarters, where there are African Welfare Halls, the material serves an invaluable purpose and a wide public in the reading rooms of such halls. The demand for such publications, however, still greatly exceeds the supply; posters and photographs of the Royal Family are always in the greatest demand.

Considerable progress was made during the year in developing the African Information Service. In August the format of the weekly news Bulletin was changed and its printing undertaken by the Government Printer. The response to this change by the African rural public was immediate and by the end of the year the circulation had increased to 10,000 per week. It should be noted that, although the publication is free, the recipients must, in the first instance, make personal application before being placed on the distribution list. The Bulletin normally runs to a six-page issue and includes world news, short descriptive articles on economic development, agricultural improvements, etc., items of interest from neighbouring territories and simplified versions of news items issued in another form for the European Press. A series of feature supplements were produced in the course of the year. They were issued at monthly intervals and distributed on the same network as the Bulletin. The series proved extremely popular.

A modified Press communique service has been established to meet a growing local and overseas demand. Care is taken to send recipients only that type of release they require and not to overload them indiscriminately with unwanted material. The Information Services also prepare feature articles on subjects of interest; these are issued in the Protectorate and translated into Chinyanja for use by district newspapers and other recipients.

A new and important function, undertaken by the Information Services in 1956, was the editing of a daily record of the proceedings of Legislative Council. This daily *Hansard* was produced for the first time in July, 1956. Permanent recording equipment has been installed in the new Legislative Council Chamber, Zomba, for this purpose. Another activity falling within the function of the Information Services is the operation of mobile and static public address equipment. Twenty-three public functions were covered in 1956 and, as the tempo of development throughout the Protectorate increases, so this service is likely to grow in importance. The Information Services are also responsible for the technical side of outside broadcasts.

The officers of the Information Services toured the Protectorate regularly during the year and nearly all districts were visited. Finally, the Information Services were responsible for a successful stand at the Nyasaland Agricultural Show held at Zomba in June.

Chapter 13

General

THE SCHOOL OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

THIS School, situated at Domasi, was established in 1952 to train those concerned in local government and rural development. It provides a variety of courses, including those for Native Authority Teams, Native Authority Clerks, Native Authority Messengers and for Senior Staff of the District Councils established under the Local Government Ordinance of 1953. In addition, short courses for men and women interested in voluntary social organizations have been held from time to time, as well as others for Police literacy instructors.

The course for Native Authority Teams, each of which usually consists of Chief, Councillor, Clerk and the local Agricultural Instructor (a Government servant), lasts four months and covers the organization, machinery and responsibilities of local authorities at their level, court procedure, land usage and animal husbandry, local government works, preventive medicine and village improvement. The instructors are those who are responsible for work in the Domasi area, supplemented by visiting lecturers; visits are also made to places of interest and importance, such as the Agricultural Training Centre, the Livestock Improvement Centre, Zomba African Hospital and the Police Training School. The course puts considerable emphasis on the need for mutual understanding and integration of all local government and development work. The course ends with two development exercises in the field, during which each team puts forward its own proposals for the development of the area involved and its plan for carrying these out.

The course for Native Authority Clerks covers office routine, court procedure, simple book-keeping and general education, while that for Senior Staff of District Councils covers administration, finance, works, office routine and general education.

All students, except those coming for very short courses, are encouraged to bring their wives and younger children with them, partly to bring home the family basis in all true social development and partly so that the women may themselves receive instruction in homecrafts, child welfare and the organization of Women's Institutes. Several of the latter have already been organized by students' wives on their return home.

During 1956, three courses for Native Authority Clerks, five for Native Authority Messengers and two for Senior Staff of District Councils were held, and the total number of persons who have attended

courses at the School since its establishment is 454, made up as follows:—

Course					Number
Native Authority Team	..	..	..	..	69
Native Authority Clerks	..	..	..	..	56
Native Authority Messengers	..	..	..	..	260
Senior Staff	..	..	..	..	30
Others	..	..	..	..	39
TOTAL					<u>454</u>

TSETSE CONTROL

During the year the Report of the Tsetse Survey of Nyasaland was published. The Report emphasizes the need for the integration of tsetse control with a considered land usage policy. The Government is taking steps to meet this need.

A number of minor tsetse investigations were carried out during the year, some in connection with the work of tsetse control posts. Intensive investigations took place in the Toleza area of the Fort Johnston District in co-operation with the Agricultural and other interested Departments. The object of the investigations was to find a way of freeing the Toleza Government Farm and the surrounding areas from the danger of trypanosomiasis. Plans were completed by the end of the year for the strategic sinking of wells to encourage settlement with a view to pushing back the boundaries of the tsetse-infested areas. Tsetse observations were also carried out in the Chikwawa District.

The scheme for the eradication of *Glossina Brevipalpis* in the Karonga District received impetus from the success of the minor clearings made in 1955. A paper describing the progress of the scheme was read at the sixth meeting of the International Scientific Committee for Trypanosomiasis Research held in Salisbury. The clearing of those valleys which constituted the main centres of fly infestation was vigorously carried out by the Department in July and August. By the end of the year fly catches were down to an average of less than one per patrol in this sector where, previously, averages of nearly 15 had been quite common. The scheme was visited by members of the Tanganyika Government's Department of Tsetse Control and Reclamation who proposed the formulation of a joint scheme for complete eradication on the basis of the work so far carried out in Nyasaland, and consultations concerning this project are in train.

PART III

Chapter 1

Geography and Climate

THE Protectorate of Nyasaland is some 520 miles in length and varies in width from 50 to 100 miles; it lies approximately between $9^{\circ} 45'$ and $17^{\circ} 16'$ south latitude and 33° and 36° east longitude. It is bounded on the east by Tanganyika and Portuguese East Africa, on the south by Portuguese East Africa, on the west by Portuguese East Africa and Northern Rhodesia and on the north by Tanganyika. The area of the Protectorate is about 37,000 square miles or nearly three-quarters of the area of England; the southern tip of the country is 130 miles from the sea.

The key to the physiography of the Protectorate is that part of the Great Rift Valley which, running down from the north, traverses Nyasaland from end to end. In this deep trough lies Lake Nyasa, 360 miles long and varying in width from 10 to 50 miles; the surface of the Lake is 1,500 feet above the sea level and its greatest depth about 2,300 feet, so that the lowest part of the floor of the trough is over 700 feet below sea level. From the south end of the Lake issues the River Shire, which falls to 120 feet above sea level at Port Herald and finally joins the Zambesi 250 miles from the Lake.

The country east and west of the Rift Valley rises in mountains, generally steep and sometimes precipitous, to form high plateaux; west of the Lake these are generally between 3,300 and 4,400 feet above sea level but in the north the Nyika uplands rise as high as 8,000 feet. South of the Lake lie the Shire Highlands with a general elevation of 2,000 to 3,500 feet rising to the mountain masses of Zomba (7,000 feet) and Mlanje (10,000 feet). In the extreme south the Rift, occupied by the lower part of the Shire, is only 200 to 300 feet above sea level.

The only other geographical features of any note are the two minor lakes, Chiuta and Chilwa, which lie on the Portuguese border on the east, between Lake Nyasa and the Mlanje range.

The administrative capital of the Protectorate is Zomba, situated some 65 miles south of the Lake on the lower slopes of Zomba Mountain. It has an estimated population of 800 Europeans, 530 Asians and 5,270 Africans. The largest commercial centre of the Protectorate is the municipality of Blantyre and Limbe, situated on the railway about

40 miles south-west of Zomba. Prior to 1956, Blantyre and Limbe, though virtually adjacent, were separate townships administered by separate Town Councils. Early in 1956, however, the two townships amalgamated as the municipality of Blantyre and Limbe, administered by a single Council presided over by a Mayor; this development took place after a referendum, held in 1955, in which the ratepayers of the two townships expressed themselves in favour of amalgamation. The population of the municipality is estimated at 2,460 Europeans, 2,720 Asians and 24,380 Africans. Further north the most important town is Lilongwe, the headquarters of the Central Province, which has an estimated population of 390 Europeans, 300 Asians and 3,980 Africans.

On the Lake-shore there is a distinctive climate; the temperature seldom rises above 100°F., but the proximity of the Lake and the generally heavy rainfall during the wet season create a humid atmosphere which is trying. Elsewhere the climate varies with the altitude. In the Highlands it is equable and healthy, while at altitudes above 3,000 feet extreme heat is unusual and fires are welcome in the evenings of the cold season; in the Shire Valley the temperature rises to 115°F. in October and November.

The rainfall generally divides the year into two seasons, the dry season from May to October and the wet season from November to April. The first rains are due at any time after mid-October and from then until the end of December there are usually violent thunderstorms with heavy rain. These storms are normally of quite short duration and the intervals between them are apt to become hot and oppressive. Steady rains should be established in January and continue until about the end of March, often rising to a crescendo of storms during the last week or two of the season; dry spells of a week or more frequently occur about the beginning of February. After March the rainfall should diminish rapidly, and from May to September the climate is on the whole cool and dry; heavy Scotch mists, known locally as *Chiperones* (as they appear to come from Chipirone Mountain in Portuguese Territory) are common in the Highlands in June and July. The country can be divided into some seven zones of rainfall with annual falls ranging from 30 inches to over 70 inches, and the distribution of the dry-season fall determines the areas suitable for certain crops. It has been suggested, for example, that the limit of the true tea, coffee and tung areas of the country may be traced on the dry-season rainfall map by the 7-inch isohyet.

The small size of Nyasaland and the great variety of physical and climatic conditions within it, greatly though they add to the attractiveness of the country, account together for many difficulties involved in administration and development.

Chapter 2

History

NYASALAND is Livingstone's country. It is true that there are various Portuguese records from 1616 onwards of occasional journeys across the southern end of what is now the Protectorate, and that in the eighteenth century Portuguese officials and miners penetrated into the neighbourhood of the present Northern Rhodesia border, not far from the site of Fort Jameson; but none of these left any lasting trace. It is also true that from an indefinite date, perhaps the sixteenth century, until almost the end of the nineteenth, there was constant passage through Nyasaland by migrating Bantu tribes, but their traditions, as at present known, are too vague to be given the name of history.

The history of Nyasaland can therefore be said to begin with David Livingstone's discovery of Lake Nyasa on the 16th September, 1859. In the early 'sixties the path he had opened was followed, under his guidance, by the pioneers of the Universities' Mission to Central Africa, but in the short time between these expeditions, the country had been defaced by tribal wars and slave raids in a way which made a harrowing contrast to the smiling land and people seen earlier by the great explorer. The missionary pioneers retired in the face of disease and death, after suffering heavy and tragic losses, and the Universities' Mission did not return until 1881.

After Livingstone's death, and inspired by it, both the Church of Scotland and the Free Church of Scotland established missions in 1874-5 as memorials to him, the former at Blantyre, named after his Scottish birthplace, and the latter at Livingstonia, first sited at the south end of the Lake but soon removed to the north. At this period, to quote the Bell Report, "Nyasaland was a whirlpool of migrant tribes, war and slave raiding and during the dry season caravans of slaves in chains and slavesticks started from the areas around the mission stations for the coast ports". These constituted a challenge which neither Christianity nor ordinary European humanity could ignore and it is to the eternal credit of the Scottish Missions that next after Livingstone's name in the roll of Nyasaland's great pioneers must be inscribed the names of Robert Laws of Livingstonia and Alexander Hetherwick of Blantyre, to whose services the country largely owes the growth of a *Pax Britannica* rather than the imposition of a *Pax Romana*.

At this early period there were no means of obtaining supplies or services, except by the exchange of trade goods, chiefly calico, and the missions had perforce to trade. To relieve the missionaries of much of the commercial side of their activities a number of business men, mainly from Glasgow, who were interested in Livingstonia, formed in

1878 the African Lakes Company as a transport and trading concern to work in close co-operation with Mission activities. The original heads of the company (now the African Lakes Corporation) were the brothers Moir. One of their objects was to achieve Livingstone's aim of combating the slave trade, rendering it economically unsound in the face of legitimate commerce as well as by the spreading of Christianity.

These pioneers were followed by other Europeans—missionaries, traders, hunters and coffee planters—but not until 1883 did a representative of the British Government appear in the shape of a Consul, Captain Foot, accredited to "the Kings and Chiefs of Central Africa"; the second consul, Captain Hawes, established himself at Zomba, now the seat of Government.

By now the first of Nyasaland's nineteenth century invaders, the Ngoni—who are entitled to claim descent from Chaka's Zulu—had almost ended their wanderings, which had taken them in fifty years from Natal to Lake Tanganyika and back to the hinterland of Lake Nyasa; the Yao, starting from somewhere about the headwaters of the Rovuma River, on the modern border between Tanganyika and Portuguese East Africa, were still on the move round the south end of the Lake, warring as they went. At the same time the slave traders at the north end of the country were becoming steadily more inconvenienced by the competition of religion and commerce with which they were now faced, and in 1888 trouble, followed by open warfare, arose between the Arab leaders of the trade and the African Lakes Company, who had to expend most of their resources on military operations. Fortunately for Nyasaland, these operations came under the eye of Cecil Rhodes whose British South Africa Company came to the rescue financially.

About this time too the Portuguese Government began to cast interested eyes on the land to the north of the Zambesi, on which river it had long had military and trading posts, and there was a certain degree of international friction. In 1889, however, one cause of friction was removed by the discovery of a navigable route through the Zambesi delta from the Indian Ocean which made Nyasaland accessible, by way of the Zambesi and the Shire, by an international waterway without touching Portuguese Territory. Nevertheless, in the same year a conflict took place on the Lower Shire between a well-armed Portuguese expedition under Major Serpa Pinto and one of the Makololo Chiefs, in consequence of which the Acting Consul, a pioneer planter named Buchanan, claimed a British Protectorate over the Shire country on 21st September, 1889, almost exactly thirty years after Livingstone first set foot on the shores of Lake Nyasa.

In 1891 an Anglo-Portuguese Convention ratified the work of Mr. H. H. (later Sir Harry) Johnston, Mr. A. (later Sir Alfred) Sharpe and others and a Protectorate was proclaimed over the countries adjoining Lake Nyasa; in 1898 the name of the territory was changed to the British Central Africa Protectorate, but in 1907 a further Order-in-Council

revived the old name of Nyasaland Protectorate. It must here be emphasized that Nyasaland did not fall under British influence by conquest or annexation; it was led under the protection of the Crown by British missionaries and traders with, as the first Proclamation put it, "the consent and desire of the Chiefs and people".

By 1896 the slave trade had been extinguished and the countries for the Yao and the Southern Ngoni pacified, although the Northern Ngoni did not come fully within the sphere of the British Administration until 1904. They had, however, long given up raiding their neighbours, partly because of an unpleasant military surprise inflicted on them by the Chewa to the south, but undoubtedly mainly because of the immense influence acquired over their Paramount Chief by Dr. Laws to whom, with his colleagues, was due the peaceful entry into the British Commonwealth of 100,000 people with their 5,000 square miles of territory.

Since then the life of the country has on the whole been peaceful, though, of course, affected like that of every other country by the two World Wars. Nyasaland's position in 1914, with her long common border with German East Africa, was dangerous, but prompt action on both land and water defeated the immediate danger and she was able to contribute greatly to the British forces which waged the long and costly East African campaign. It was during this war that the Chilembwe rising took place, when one John Chilembwe, a native pastor half-educated in the United States and encouraged by the German authorities, rose with his followers in the Blantyre neighbourhood and murdered several Europeans against whom the rebels had personal grudges; rapid counter-measures were taken and the rising petered out with the death of its leader in a scuffle in the bush on the Portuguese border. To the credit of these misguided men it must be mentioned that such European women and children as fell into their hands were treated with the utmost consideration.

In 1939 the Protectorate was far from any front, but nevertheless able to aid the war effort very considerably, in relation to her size, in both men and materials. In peacetime, Nyasaland raises the two senior regular battalions of the King's African Rifles, and the First Battalion maintained its pride of place by being the first African colonial unit to be in action, in 1940, against the Italians on the Abyssinian border, and the last out of action, in 1945, in the neighbourhood of Rangoon. Between these two dates it added Abyssinia, Madagascar and Burma to a list of campaigning grounds, which in the previous fifty years had embraced much of tropical Africa. By the end of the war nearly 30,000 Nyasalanders, including a very high proportion of the Protectorate's small European population—men and women—had served in the forces and to the two original battalions had been added a further seven line battalions, two field regiments of artillery, over 4,000 drivers in the East African Army Service Corps and numerous other garrison and ancillary troops. The wandering habits of the natives of the

country, to which fuller reference is made later in this Chapter, led also to their appearance in many non-Nyasaland units of the East African Forces, in the non-European units of the Union Defence Force and in the pioneers; a few of the last-named had the misfortune to be taken prisoner at Tobruk and thereby made the acquaintance of Italy and Germany before they were liberated.

During 1951 celebrations were held in connection with the Diamond Jubilee of the declaration of a British Protectorate over the countries adjoining Lake Nyasa. It was an occasion for reflection on the notable advances which had taken place during sixty years of comparatively peaceful and prosperous British rule. Considering the social and economic conditions which prevailed towards the end of the nineteenth century, the growth of peace and prosperity, the establishment of law and order, the evolution of a political and social consciousness, together with the maintenance of inter-racial harmony, amount to a considerable achievement in so short a space of time. The emphasis laid by Africans in their loyal addresses on 15th May, 1951, on the benefits resulting from sixty years of British rule was most gratifying to those who had played some part in the Nyasaland story.

The great constitutional change, embodied in the proposals for the Federation of Nyasaland with Northern and Southern Rhodesia, was first put before the people in 1951 and continued in 1952 to be the subject of discussion throughout the Protectorate. The conference at the Victoria Falls, held in September, 1951, was followed by a change of Government in the United Kingdom. In November, 1951, a statement was made in Parliament endorsing the conclusions of the conference and undertaking to further the discussions and consultations which had taken place. As a result of this undertaking, informal talks were held in London in January, 1952, at which the Prime Minister of Southern Rhodesia and the Governors of Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland were present. These were followed by a conference in London in April, 1952, at which Nyasaland was represented by His Excellency the Governor, the Secretary for African Affairs and four unofficial European members. African representatives were invited to attend but declined at the last minute to do so. The conference produced the Draft Federal Scheme, Command Paper 8573, which was published in June, 1952.

The final conference was held in London during January, 1953, after preparatory discussions in December. Nyasaland was represented by His Excellency the Governor, the Financial Secretary, the Secretary for African Affairs, the Deputy Chief Secretary and three prominent unofficials. This conference produced the Federal Scheme (Command Paper 8753). This was later revised and set out in Command Paper 8754. In April, 1953, the Legislative Council of Nyasaland voted that it was in favour of the Federation of Southern Rhodesia, Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland in terms of the proposals contained in Parliamentary White Paper Command 8754. The Order in Council establishing the Federation

was made by Her Majesty, together with an order providing that the Constitution should become effective on the 3rd September, 1953. An interim Federal Government was then formed to conduct the business of the Federation until proper elections could be held.

The 15th December, 1953, saw the first general election ever held in Nyasaland, when four European members were elected to the Federal Assembly. On the same day two African members were elected by the African Protectorate Council, which had been declared as the body representative of African opinion for the purposes of this election. Both elections passed off without incident. In addition, one European member of the Assembly was nominated by the Governor to represent African interests.

In August and September, 1953, disturbances occurred in the Southern Province of the Protectorate. The Federation issue had undoubtedly intensified the political atmosphere but the basic cause of the disturbances could be traced to land hunger in the Province, coupled with dislike of the tenant system—grievances which were unscrupulously exploited by political agitators. The people affected were mainly Lomwe immigrants from Portuguese Territory. Law and order was restored by the end of September.

In May, 1954, the Secretary of State for the Colonies visited Nyasaland with the object, *inter alia*, of observing at first hand the problems which had given rise to the disturbances, and of consulting opinion representative of the various sections of the community. Following his visit it was arranged that Government should enter into negotiation with the owners of certain large estates with a view to acquiring land occupied by African tenants and land suitable for the settlement of Africans which was not required for development by the estate-owners.

Following this arrangement, agreement was reached during 1955 for Government to acquire from certain private estates some 72,000 acres of land.

In June, 1955, the Secretary of State for the Colonies announced a revised Constitution for Nyasaland—the Legislative Council (with an increased African membership) to consist of the Governor as President, four *ex-officio* Members, seven Official Members and eleven Elected Members. In September the Legislative Council Ordinance (Ordinance No. 25 of 1955) was enacted to provide for the election of the Elected Members. Provision was made for the six non-African Members to be elected on a non-African electoral roll by electoral areas and for the five African Members to be elected by the African Provincial Councils. No change was made in the membership of the Executive Council.

On the 12th August, 1955, Blantyre celebrated its diamond jubilee as a municipality. The town itself started to take shape on 14th July, 1894, when 17 farmers and traders (there were only 17 settlers at the time) met to draw up a legal agreement to constitute the Blantyre Township. One hundred acres were set aside from their land to be sub-divided into a preliminary township. Roads were made and the first "Council of Advice", as it was called, met the following year on 12th August, 1895, with a membership of six and funds amounting to less than £40 in the cash box. One of the earlier achievements was the fixing of a uniform time for the local inhabitants by arranging to have a gun fired at noon every Friday. It was also fired on the arrival of the United Kingdom mail. As an indication of the rate at which the commercial centre of the Protectorate is expanding, it is of interest to note that the population has more than trebled since 1945 and that the town's estimated value in property, now that it has been amalgamated with Limbe, stands at over £10,500,000.

The social and economic history of the country, since its proclamation as a Protectorate, is, on the whole, one of slow but steady progress in the face of many difficulties. Migratory tribal units have become stabilized and the last flood of immigrants was one of Africans from Portuguese Territory, swarming over the border in search of work on the tea estates and later settling down in the Southern Province. Thanks largely to the work of the missions, which have now among them representatives of the Roman Catholic Church, the Dutch Reformed Church of South Africa and the Seventh Day Adventists, as well as the successors of the Scottish and Anglican pioneers, education has made considerable strides, craftsmen continue to increase in numbers and medical aid has reached far beyond the more settled areas of the country. The influence of western culture has undoubtedly done much to divorce the African from the anchorage of his tribal beliefs and discipline, but on the credit side there has probably been the building up of a greater degree of sound moral character than the superficial observer often believes; as in material progress much of the credit belongs to the missions, so in this moral sphere much is due to the influence and example of lay Europeans, both men and women. A current task is the inculcation among Africans of a spirit of voluntary service to their fellows, which had not been encouraged by an earlier insistence on the virtues of rugged individualism. As social welfare activities grow so will the field of such service expand, but already the opportunity is there, in probation work, in scouting, guiding, Red Cross activities and in the management of such recreational pastimes as football leagues.

Reference has already been made to the wandering habits of the Nyasaland African; travel is in his blood, life at home is apt to be dull and, in a predominantly agricultural country, cash returns have, until recently, been low by comparison with those of other countries. It was not long, therefore, after the pacification of the country, before the African began to find his way to the higher cash wages of Rhodesia

and the bright lights of the Rand. The Nyasa is now to be found in South Africa, the Rhodesias, Tanganyika, Kenya, the Belgian Congo, Portuguese East Africa and London; he has also been reported from the New York waterfront. The stream of emigrants swelled steadily until by the nineteen-thirties it is safe to say that nearly a third of the able-bodied men were away from Nyasaland. Since then measures have been taken to control the flow, to safeguard the emigrant while out of the country and to ensure that, in as many cases as possible, he and his savings return home after a fairly short period, either for good or for regular holidays. The country's contribution to the economic progress of its neighbours is thus considerable.

Otherwise, the economic history of Nyasaland is its agricultural history, which is a record of pioneer planting, mostly with little previous experimental work, by Europeans of single products over large areas of land. The earliest economic crop was coffee and a coffee tree figured prominently in the Protectorate's first coat of arms. Coffee was later displaced by cotton, which in turn gave way to tobacco and tea and these two may now be regarded as the Protectorate's main cash crops. Tung retains some importance as a major crop, but fluctuations in the demand for tung oil at a price attractive to producers render its future position uncertain. The last few years have also seen the establishment of certain minor secondary industries but it is unlikely that these will ever be of more than local importance. They do, however, contribute considerably to the comfort and well-being of the population in the provision of cheap soap, cigarettes and shoe leather.

No sketch of the history of Nyasaland would be complete without a reference to the development of its communications. In the early days the Zambesi, the Shire and Lake Nyasa provided the main artery of communication, interrupted only by the 60-mile portage round the Murchison Cataracts on the Shire. By the time that the Chinde mouth of the Zambesi was discovered in 1889, the level of the Shire had begun to fall and steamers could not proceed beyond Chiromo. The growing importance of Blantyre led to the planning of a railway to it from the Lower Shire and in 1907 work was begun on a line from Chiromo to Blantyre; almost immediately, however, the continued fall in the level of the Shire made Chiromo useless as a port and the railway was continued to Port Herald, the line being opened in 1908. Port Herald then became difficult or impossible of approach for steamers and between 1913 and 1915 a further 50 miles of railway were constructed between Port Herald and Chindio on the northern bank of the Zambesi in Portuguese Territory.

Meanwhile the level of the Upper Shire was also falling and in due course steamer traffic became impossible outside Lake Nyasa. The Blantyre-Zomba Road, one of the first to be made in the country, was therefore extended to Fort Johnston at the south end of the Lake

and this was the main transport route in use during the first World War. The Protectorate is linked by road with all its neighbours, and the trunk roads from Blantyre to Mbeya and from Salima to Fort Jameson are important parts of the main communications of Central Africa.

Navigation on the Zambesi next became uncertain and a railway, opened in 1922, was built from Murraca, on the south bank of the Zambesi, nearly opposite Chindio, to Donda, 18 miles from Beira on the line from Beira to Rhodesia. The ferry service was, however, unsatisfactory and the line was frequently washed out by floods. In 1935, therefore, a railway bridge across the Zambesi was opened and at the same time the line was extended from Blantyre to the neighbourhood of Lake Nyasa at Salima, giving uninterrupted rail communication between the Lake at Chipoka and Beira on the Indian Ocean. As an illustration of the trials of those who plan in Africa it may be added that about the time this link was completed the Lake began to rise again and the Shire with it, so that in the rainy season the railway bridge at Chiromo might have more than 20 feet of water under it; a realignment of the track in this neighbourhood became urgently necessary. Early in 1948, a few months after this improvement had been completed, a great island of sudd, floating down the flooded Shire, carried away the Chiromo bridge and Nyasaland's railway link with the sea became dependent on a swiftly improvised ferry which remained in operation throughout 1949. A new steel bridge, completed during 1949, was put into service in 1950.

Between 4th and 6th April, 1956, a cyclone, which was given the meteorological name of "Edith", appeared off the East African coast, crossed over Portuguese East Africa, where it caused considerable damage and loss of life, travelled across Nyasaland and spent itself in Northern Rhodesia. With it to Nyasaland came a considerable amount of rain which brought about the worst flooding of the Ruo River in living memory. This flooding caused most damage in the Chiromo area of Port Herald District in the Southern Province where the railway embankment was badly breached, and rail traffic to and from Portuguese East Africa was consequently held up for a short period. The route of the cyclone was known in advance and inhabitants of the danger areas were warned early of its approach. As a result, there was no loss of life in Nyasaland due to the cyclone.

Chapter 3

Administration

CONSIDERABLE modification to the administrative machinery of the Protectorate has resulted from the introduction of Federation in 1953, and the Federal Government has assumed responsibility for the following departments: Audit, Civil Aviation, Customs and Immigration, Income Tax, Posts and Telecommunications, Prisons, Medical, Non-African Primary and Secondary Education and all higher Education.

The Protectorate continues to be administered by the Governor, assisted by the Executive Council, which comprises the persons for the time being lawfully discharging the functions of Chief Secretary, Attorney General and Financial Secretary as *ex-officio* members and such other persons, styled Nominated Members, as may from time to time be appointed by Royal Instructions, conveyed through the Secretary of State. The membership of Executive Council during 1956 is contained in an Appendix to this Chapter.

The laws of the Protectorate are made by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council, constituted by the Nyasaland Order in Council, 1907, as amended by the Nyasaland (No. 2) Order in Council, 1955. The Legislative Council consists of the Governor as President, four *ex-officio* Members (viz.: Chief Secretary, Attorney General, Financial Secretary and Secretary for African Affairs), seven Official Members (being such persons holding office of emolument under the Crown in the Protectorate as may from time to time be appointed by the Governor in pursuance of Royal Instructions, conveyed through the Secretary of State for the Colonies) and eleven Elected Members not holding office under the Crown in the Protectorate, of whom six are non-African Elected Members and five are African Elected Members. The Legislative Council Ordinance, No. 25 of 1955, provided for the election of these Members. The first General Election under the 1955 Constitution took place in March, 1956. The identity of the Members of the Legislative Council, following the 1956 election, is given in an Appendix to this Chapter.

Since the coming into force of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland (Constitution) Order in Council, 1953, the Protectorate has formed part of the Federation and the Federal Legislature has enacted legislation on a number of subjects, formerly within the powers of the Nyasaland Legislative Council.

The judicial system is described in Part II, Chapter 9 of this Report.

The principal territorial departments of Government, apart from the Provincial and District Administration, are: Judicial, Legal, Agriculture, Public Works, Education, Police, Geological Survey, Labour, Veterinary, Forestry, Printing and Stationery, Co-operative Development, Game, Fish and Tsetse Control, Accountant General and Surveys.

The policy of the Government is defined and controlled in the Secretariat. The Chief Secretary is the channel of communication between Government on the one hand and heads of departments and the general public on the other. He is the head of the Civil Service.

For administrative purposes, the Protectorate is divided into three Provinces, Northern, Central and Southern, each in the charge of a Provincial Commissioner, who is responsible to the Governor for the administration of his Province. The Provinces are divided into 18 Districts, each in charge of a District Commissioner, who in turn is responsible to the Provincial Commissioner. Provincial Commissioners and District Officers are responsible for the proper conduct of the Native Administrations within their areas. Each of the districts contain one or more Native Authorities constituted as such under the Native Authority Ordinance, 1955. The size of the various Native Authorities' areas varies considerably and is dependent generally on the degree of tribal feeling and homogeneity which remained at the time of the introduction of the first Native Authority Ordinance in 1933. The largest population administered by any single Native Authority is 170,000 under the M'mbelwa Native Authority Council in the Mzimba District; the smallest is the 250 of the Mbwana Native Authority Council in the Nkata Bay District. The number of Native Authorities in each of the Provinces varies from 16 in the Northern Province to 48 in the Central Province and 68 in the Southern Province, a total of 132.

District Councils have been established under the Local Government (District Councils) Ordinance, No. 48 of 1953, in eleven out of the eighteen districts of the Protectorate. These Councils are constituted by Warrant and are multi-racial in composition. There is provision in the Ordinance for the appointment or election of members.

Chiefs have been accorded seats on the Councils so established and the tribal element in local government has not therefore been disregarded. The powers and duties of the new Councils are extensive and include control of the finances of the Council, the levying of rates, taxes and cesses and the power to make by-laws on subjects connected with administration, social affairs, agriculture, education, finance, forestry, land, staff pensions, veterinary services and water supplies.

The new Councils have, therefore, taken over in large measure the financial and legislative responsibilities of the Native Authorities, and with the additional and extensive powers conferred on them by the Ordinance will, it is hoped, provide a firm foundation for the future local government of the territory.

The first statutory District Council to be established under the Ordinance was that of Cholo, in the Southern Province. This Council consists of a Chairman and 20 Councillors of whom 12 are Africans, 6 are Europeans and 2 are Asians. Six of the African Councillors are elected; all the remaining African Councillors are appointed by the Governor.

District Councils have also been established in the Ncheu, Dedza, Lilongwe and Dowa Districts of the Central Province, in the Rumpi, Karonga and Nkata Bay Districts of the Northern Province, and in the Zomba, Mlanje and Blantyre Districts of the Southern Province. Various by-laws were passed by these Councils during the year.

In those remaining seven districts of the Protectorate, where statutory District Councils have not yet been established, non-statutory District Councils continue to operate satisfactorily. These Councils will change their form as and when development in a district is sufficiently advanced, and the necessary staff and potential members are available for the running of a statutory Council. Transition will be gradual over the years.

The greater part of the Protectorate consists of African areas, and administration through the Native Authorities is, broadly speaking, the same in all districts, whether under the control of a statutory District Council or not.

A Native Authority consists of a Council or group of Africans declared to be, or established as, a Native Authority under the Native Authority Ordinance, 1955, for specified areas. The person recognized by the Governor as the Chief for the area in respect of which a Native Authority has been established is an *ex-officio* member of the Native Authority Council, and in most cases is the Chairman. The other members of the Council are persons recognized as such by the Provincial Commissioner. In the appointment of Chiefs the Government usually recognizes the person accepted by the people. There has always been and still is a very real regard on the part of the Africans for the state of chieftainship; nor is this regard confined to the illiterate or semi-educated inhabitants of rural areas.

Appointments to Native Authority Councils are more elastic than those to the Chieftainship itself; Councillors are not necessarily hereditary and appointment depends in many cases upon public opinion. In some cases the composition of the Council is still largely determined by established native custom; in many others the customary practice has been modified to allow a broader basis of representation and expression of opinion. Formal recognition as a member of a Native Authority Council ultimately rests with the Provincial Commissioner concerned.

The Governor has power to withdraw recognition of a person as a member of a Native Authority and a Provincial Commissioner can also exercise powers of suspension for three months or, with the Governor's approval, for one year in cases involving abuse of power, or for incapacity or other sufficient reason.

Below the Native Authority Council there are in many districts subordinate councils which include Group and Village Councils. The Village Headman still remains an important unit of the native administration. In some cases these Headmen derive their influence from actual or traditional inheritance of the powers exercised by family heads or recognized administrators of the land. In others they owe their authority to the position given to them by the administration. Apart from their traditional function of settling minor village disputes, the Village Headmen have a number of statutory duties to perform which include duties in connection with tax registration and vital statistics. It is clear that the Village Headman must continue to perform his function as a direct link between the ordinary villager and his Chief as well as the District Commissioner.

Native Authorities have four inter-related responsibilities—executive, legislative, judicial and financial. In districts where statutory Councils have been formed, certain of these powers now devolve upon the Council but the Native Authority continues to operate as a subsidiary organ of local government, collecting revenue, enforcing by-laws and generally preserving law and order in his own area.

Executive responsibility is vested in Native Authorities by the Native Authority Ordinance (Ordinance 13 of 1955), supplemented in some cases by the delegation of powers under those laws of Nyasaland, such as the Game and Forestry Laws, which largely concern Africans. Under the Ordinance, Native Authorities are empowered to issue orders "subject to the provisions of any law or Ordinance for the time being in force and to the general or special directions of the Governor." Within the area over which the Native Authority has jurisdiction, these orders may relate to a number of subjects, such as control of intoxicating liquor and gambling, public health, migration, reporting of births and deaths and the movement and control of livestock. They may, indeed, relate to the prohibition, restriction or execution of any matter which is not repugnant to morality or justice, and is in accordance with the native law and custom for the time being in force.

The prior approval of Government for the issue of orders is not required, but they must be reported at the earliest possible moment to the District Council or superior Native Authority, if any, and to the District Commissioner. The Provincial Commissioner has power to revoke orders if he considers it desirable. An offence against an order is punishable on conviction by a fine not exceeding £25 or by imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years or by both such fine and imprisonment. With few exceptions Native Authorities have issued orders on their own initiative and most of these orders are eminently sensible and have required little amendment or revision.

Legislative responsibility is vested in a Native Authority under section 20 of the Native Authority Ordinance which empowers it, subject to the provisions of any law or Ordinance for the time being in force and to the approval of the Governor, "to make rules to be obeyed

by Africans within the local limits of its jurisdiction providing for the peace, good order and welfare of such Africans." Such rules may make provision for the imposition of fees and, when passed, have the authority of Ordinances and may only be revoked with the consent of the Governor. Subject to the approval of the Governor, a Provincial Commissioner or a District Commissioner may himself make rules for any of the purposes mentioned above in respect of the area of jurisdiction of any Native Authority in his Province or District and such rules have the same force and effect as if made by the Native Authority of the area. For breach of the rules, penalties may be imposed up to a fine of £50 or imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year or to both such fine and imprisonment. Rules made by the Native Authority may at any time be revoked by the Governor.

In districts where statutory District Councils have been established under Ordinance No. 48 of 1953, existing Native Authority rules are gradually being replaced by by-laws, made under section 27 of the Ordinance. The Ordinance provides that all by-laws made by a Council shall be submitted as soon as may be to the Provincial Commissioner, who shall in turn forward such by-laws, together with his recommendations to the Governor in Council or to such committee as may be appointed by the Governor in Council in that behalf. The Governor in Council or such a committee, in his, or its, discretion, as the case may be, may approve or reject any by-law. Approved by-laws are enacted in English, and, after *Gazette* publication, are promulgated in the area under the jurisdiction of the Council, down to the level of the Village Headman. Penalties for the contravention of by-laws may not exceed a fine of £50 or imprisonment for a term of six months or both such fine and imprisonment.

At the present stage of development, legislative or rule-making powers are still widely exercised by the Native Authorities. In almost every district, rules have been made covering such subjects as African canteens, teashops and the sale and consumption of native beer. The registration of marriages and divorces is covered by rules, or by-laws in the case of District Councils, in all the Native Authority areas. Canoe rules, designed to control the cutting of trees suitable for the construction of canoes and to make provision for their licensing, have been made in areas adjoining Lake Nyasa and large rivers. Many rules to ensure proper agricultural practice, land usage and preparation of gardens are also in force.

The judicial and financial responsibilities of Native Authorities are dealt with in Part II, Chapters 9 and 3 respectively.

The association of Africans in the work of the Central Government, in addition to the Local Government system described in previous paragraphs, is being developed along two main lines—the inclusion of Africans on Government Committees and Boards, and the Council System. Both Chiefs and African teachers are represented on District

and District Council Education Committees and ten Africans are included on the Protectorate Advisory Committee on African Education. In addition, Africans have been appointed to a number of statutory boards and committees such as the African Tobacco Board, the Agricultural Production and Marketing Board, the Provincial Natural Resources Boards and others.

The council system has been developed with the aim of providing an unbroken ladder of Councils from the Legislative Council at the top to village level at the bottom.

African Provincial Councils are established in each of the three Provinces and sit at least twice yearly under the chairmanship of the Provincial Commissioners; these Councils are advisory and non-statutory, but under the provisions of the Legislative Council Ordinance are now responsible for the election of African members to Legislative Council.

There is no fixed ratio between Chief and non-Chief members of Provincial Councils; in the Central Province the constitution is at present 14 Chiefs to 12 non-Chiefs; in the Southern Province the Council also consists of 26 members of whom 16 are Chiefs; and in the Northern Province there are 13 Chiefs to 12 non-Chiefs.

A uniform method of allocating seats to Provincial Councils was introduced in all Provinces a few years ago. A block quota of seats is allocated to each district and nominations to these are made by the African members of District Councils or other local government equivalents from among and by the delegates at the meetings of these Councils. The appointments are finally approved by the Governor.

The reconstitution of Provincial Councils was carried out in 1950 in order to encourage the representative expression of African opinion and to obtain equal opportunity of representation by hereditary dignitaries and others, while retaining as far as possible the indigenous tribal structure of administration at Native Authority level and below. That the first of these objectives is being achieved is shown by the greatly improved standard of debate in all three Provincial Councils since the reconstitution took place.

Considerable latitude is allowed in discussions and subjects may be introduced either by the Central Government, Provincial or District Councils or by the individual members themselves. In the case of Group and Village Councils, as a rule, anyone who is by native custom entitled to speak is allowed to do so.

The townships of Blantyre/Limbe, Zomba, Lilongwe and Salima are administered in their domestic affairs by Town Councils which, in the former case, are elected by the ratepayers and in the three latter, are nominated by the Governor. One African, representing the African Civil Servants' Association, is appointed a member of the Zomba Town Council.

African urban advisory committees have been established at Blantyre/Limbe, Zomba and Lilongwe and advise the town councils on matters appertaining to the African urban population.

In addition to Town Councils, local authorities, known as Rural Area Boards, have been set up in a number of rural centres of population, usually at District Stations and the larger trading centres. The main function of these Boards is to secure proper sanitary conditions and amenities within such centres. The District Commissioner is the Chairman of the Board and the members are appointed by the Governor. A local authority has also been established to administer a high density residential area in Blantyre/Limbe, known as the Soche Authority. The Chairman of this authority is the District Commissioner, Blantyre, and there are two Africans included on the Authority.

MEMBERS OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL 1956

President:—

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR (Sir Geoffrey Colby, K.C.M.G.,
January–April; Sir Robert Armitage, K.C.M.G., M.B.E.,
April–December).

Ex-Officio Members:—

THE HON. THE CHIEF SECRETARY (C. W. F. Footman, Esq., C.M.G.).

THE HON. THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (J. B. Hobson, Esq., Q.C.).

THE HON. THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY (K. W. Simmonds, Esq.,
C.M.G.).

Nominated Official Members:—

THE HON. MR. R. W. KETTLEWELL, C.M.G. (Director of Agriculture).

THE HON. MR. J. H. INGHAM, C.M.G., M.B.E. (Secretary for African
Affairs).

Nominated Unofficial Members:—

THE HON. MR. L. J. RUMSEY (Resigned in March).

THE HON. MR. A. C. W. DIXON.

THE HON. MR. M. H. BLACKWOOD (Appointed in May).

NOTES:—

(1) THE HON. MR. K. W. SIMMONDS, C.M.G., occupied the post of Acting Chief Secretary during the absence on leave of the HON. MR. C. W. F. FOOTMAN, C.M.G.

(2) THE HON. MR. H. S. NORMAN-WALKER occupied the post of Acting Financial Secretary during the absence on leave of the HON. MR. C. W. F. FOOTMAN, C.M.G., and the appointment of the HON. MR. K. W. SIMMONDS, C.M.G., as Acting Chief Secretary, and again during the absence on leave of the HON. MR. K. W. SIMMONDS, C.M.G.

(3) THE HON. MR. M. H. BLACKWOOD was appointed an Unofficial Member in May in place of the HON. MR. L. J. RUMSEY.

MEMBERS OF LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL following the General Election in March, 1956

President:—

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR (Sir Geoffrey Colby, K.C.M.G.,
until April; Sir Robert Armitage, K.C.M.G., M.B.E., April–
December).

Ex-Officio Members:—

THE HON. THE CHIEF SECRETARY (C. W. F. Footman, Esq., C.M.G.).

THE HON. THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (J. B. Hobson, Esq., Q.C.).

THE HON. THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY (K. W. Simmonds, Esq.,
C.M.G.).

THE HON. THE SECRETARY FOR AFRICAN AFFAIRS (J. H. Ingham,
Esq., C.M.G., M.B.E.).

Official Members:—

THE HON. MR. R. W. KETTLEWELL, C.M.G. (Director of Agriculture).

THE HON. MR. C. H. F. APTHORP, M.V.O. (Commissioner of Police).

THE HON. MR. N. F. RICHARDS, O.B.E. (Director of Public Works).

THE HON. MR. R. F. STOWELL (Director of Education).

THE HON. MR. P. W. YOUENS (Deputy Chief Secretary).

THE HON. MR. R. G. M. WILLAN (Conservator of Forests).

THE HON. MR. C. A. COLLARD, M.B.E., T.D. (Commissioner for
Labour).

Temporary Official Members (see Notes below):—

THE HON. MR. J. P. FEENY, O.B.E. (Secretary for Lands and Mines).

THE HON. MR. L. A. C. BUCHANAN (Acting Director of Education).

THE HON. MR. D. E. FAULKNER (Director of Veterinary Services).

THE HON. MR. W. J. R. PINCOTT, M.B.E. (Assistant Financial
Secretary).

Elected Members:—

THE HON. MR. A. C. W. DIXON—(Elected 24th February, 1956).

THE HON. MR. M. H. BLACKWOOD—(Elected 15th March, 1956).

THE HON. MR. F. G. COLLINS—(Elected 24th February, 1956).

THE HON. MR. H. P. COOMBES, M.B.E.—(Elected 16th March, 1956).

THE HON. MR. J. R. N. CHINYAMA—(Elected 15th March, 1956).

THE HON. MR. M. W. K. CHIUME—(Elected 15th March, 1956).

THE HON. MR. D. W. CHIJOZI—(Elected 15th March, 1956).

THE HON. MR. N. D. KWENJE—(Elected 15th March, 1956).

THE HON. MR. V. G. MILWARD, O.B.E.—(Elected 16th March, 1956).

THE HON. MR. H. B. CHIPEMBERE—(Elected 15th March, 1956).

THE HON. MR. L. A. LITTLE—(Elected 15th March, 1956).

NOTES:—

(1) THE HON. MR. C. W. F. FOOTMAN, C.M.G., occupied the post of Acting Governor during the period between the departure of SIR GEOFFREY COLBY, K.C.M.G., and the arrival of SIR ROBERT ARMITAGE, K.C.M.G., M.B.E., during which period the HON. MR. P. W. YOUENS occupied the post of Acting Chief Secretary.

(2) THE HON. MR. K. W. SIMMONDS, C.M.G., occupied the post of Acting Chief Secretary during the absence on leave of the HON. MR. C. W. F. FOOTMAN, C.M.G.

(3) THE HON. MR. H. S. NORMAN-WALKER occupied the post of Acting Financial Secretary during the period when the HON. MR. K. W. SIMMONDS, C.M.G., was Acting Chief Secretary and later when the HON. MR. K. W. SIMMONDS, C.M.G., was on leave.

(4) THE HON. MR. J. P. FEENY, O.B.E., replaced the HON. MR. C. A. COLLARD, M.B.E., T.D., during the latter's absence on leave.

(5) THE HON. MR. L. A. C. BUCHANAN replaced the HON. MR. R. F. STOWELL, O.B.E., during the latter's absence on leave.

(6) THE HON. MR. D. E. FAULKNER replaced the HON. MR. P. W. YOUENS during the latter's absence on leave.

Chapter 4

Weights and measures

STANDARD British weights and measures are in use throughout the Protectorate.

Chapter 5

Reading list

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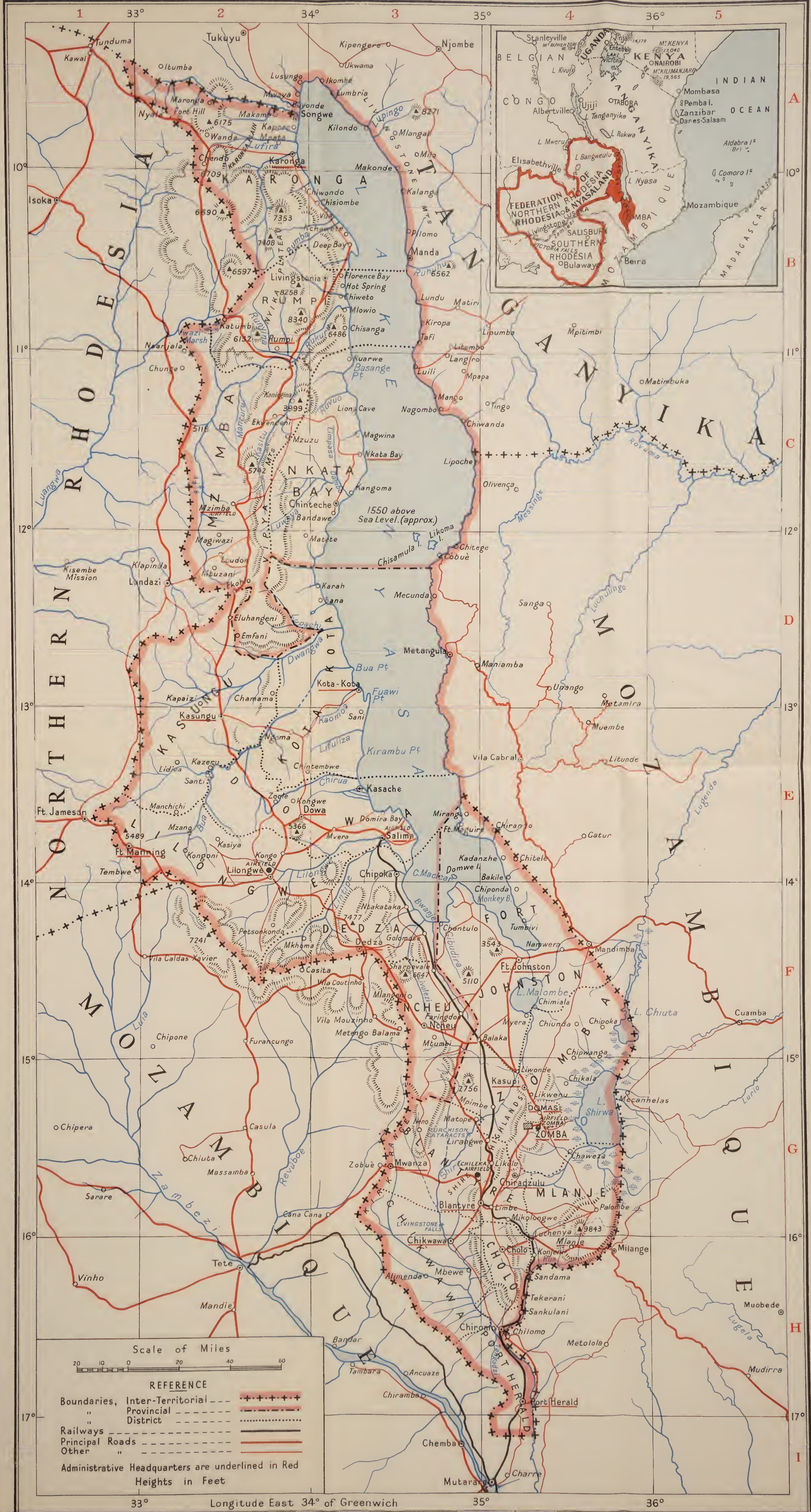
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